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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2009–2010

COMPRISING PERIOD
22 March 2010—8 April 2010

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Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 22 March 2010

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Public Libraries (Modernisation)

The Minister of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Margaret Hodge): In December 2009 we published our consultation document on the future of public libraries in England and committed to publishing the Government's vision for libraries in the spring. I have today laid before Parliament "The Modernisation Review of Public Libraries: A Policy Statement" setting out our policies for public libraries in England.

The policy statement builds on the 10-year strategy for libraries published in 2003 "Framework for the Future". Specifically it sets out:

A Library Offer to the Public: The Government recommend a Library Offer to the public for all public libraries in England. The Library Offer will be made up of a "core offer" of services which all library services should deliver and a "local offer" of services, shaped and delivered at local level. The Government recommend all library authorities make their Library Offer to the public clear and visible to all the citizens in the area—on their website, in library buildings and through any other local marketing opportunities. The Government will review the Library Offer after two years and consider whether to legislate to make it a statutory obligation.

Free internet access: The Government expect that from April 2011 all library services will provide free internet access to users as part of their Library Offer to the public. Government will, under section 8(2)(b) of the 1964 Public Libraries Act, make an affirmative order preventing libraries from charging for internet access.

Support to get online: The Government recommend that all library services provide support and advice for users wanting to get online as part of their Library Offer to the public.

Library Membership from Birth: Research shows that children benefit in many ways from library visits and early access to books and reading. The Government expect that from April 2011 all library services offer library membership as an entitlement from birth. This might be achieved in a number of ways:

Offering library membership at the registration of a birth.

Offering library membership along with child benefits.

Offering library membership with bookstart packs.

E-Books: There are new and exciting opportunities around digital lending. With the launch of a number of different e-reading devices, digital reading is growing in the public consciousness where downloadable audio books are already fully established. Currently 14 library services offer e-book services in England with more planning to launch shortly. All lend for free. The Government believe that e-book lending is likely to form a key 24/7 public service in the future with public library services being accessed from home and on the move as well as in library buildings, and will therefore initiate changes to secondary legislation to guarantee free e-book loans. The Government will under section 8(2)(b) of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 make an affirmative order preventing libraries from charging for e-books lending of any sort including remotely.

The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964: The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 (the 1964 Act) sets out the statutory duty for all local authorities to provide a "comprehensive and efficient" library service set in the context of local need—specifically of those who live, work and study in the local area. The 1964 Act imposes a duty on the Secretary of State to oversee and promote the public library service and to secure discharge of the statutory duties of local authorities as well as providing certain powers to take action where a local authority is in breach of its own duty. The Government judge that the 1964 Act's imposition of this duty on local authorities is appropriate and that the Secretary of State's overview role should be maintained.

We have no plans, therefore, to review the primary legislation but recognise that the process of intervention needs modernisation.

Public Libraries (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 1992: Although the Government do not expect to activate the inquiry rules often, the Government will amend the Public Libraries (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 1992 to modernise the processes by which the Secretary of State intervenes in a library service.

Guidance on processes of engagement and consultation: Best practice guidance is issued in the policy statement on the processes which the Government recommend library authorities consider under their statutory duty. The Government will review this best practice guidance after two years and consider whether to legislate to make the guidance statutory.

Strategic Body for the Sector: The Government are minded to establish a strategic body for the sector as a means of providing a stronger national voice for libraries and improving leadership and development of the sector. As part of the wider review of arm's length bodies, the Government will consider bringing together the functions of three different organisations—the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), the Advisory Council on Libraries and the Registrar of Public Lending Right. The Government propose the libraries body has a statutory advisory function, with the formal power to advise the Secretary of State on his role under the 1964 Act. The Government will undertake a business case in consultation with stakeholders and will publish more detail as part of the broader review of arm's length bodies.

New Delivery Models: As local authorities face a tough spending round with hard choices to be made on front-line services, the Government encourage councils to look at new delivery models for their public library service. The Government believe that the current model of 151 library authorities is unsustainable. If the public are to be offered a comprehensive public library service at the local level, library services will either need to work closely together, merge with other authorities or establish trust models of private/public partnerships. There may also be opportunities to share services with university libraries and collaborate on opening times, access and management of stock.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Equipment

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): During the defence in the world debate on 15 March I set out my intention to announce a number of important equipment procurement decisions over the coming days that will deliver vital capabilities for the Royal Navy, the Army, and the Royal Air Force, ensuring they are well equipped to undertake future missions.

My approach continues that which I set out in the House on 15 December, and on 3 February with the defence Green Paper that paves the way for a strategic defence review after the general election. Many of the decisions we face in the future of defence will be left for the review but there is also a clear need to maintain momentum on projects that are integral to any future defence programme, and to continue to work to ensure the long-term affordability of the overall programme.

Today, I am pleased to announce the successful outcome of the specialist vehicle competition. This represents a very important milestone towards replacing the ageing combat vehicle reconnaissance (tracked), and is one of the highest equipment priorities for the Army.

Preferred bidder status has been awarded to General Dynamics UK for the demonstration phase of the specialist vehicle programme, subject to successful completion of contractual negotiations. This decision was made following a robust assessment of the tenders received, ensuring value for money throughout the life of these vehicles.

The solution offered by General Dynamics UK is based on an upgrade to the ASCOD vehicle that is already in service with a number of European nations. The British variants of this design will employ the 40 mm cased telescoped ammunition and cannon, and provide protection against a wide range of threats. Once in service, this new capability will bring significant benefit to the Army including improved protection, greater firepower, longer-range sensors and sighting systems, and a higher level of reliability.

General Dynamics UK's proposed solution contains 73 per cent. UK content within the supply chain and the assembly, integration and test facilities at the Defence Support Group Donnington. This ensures the sustainment of UK jobs, UK skills and UK capabilities within the armoured vehicle sector.

We are determined to provide the armed forces with the capabilities they require, and the SV decision follows the announcement of our commitment to order an initial batch of 200 light protected patrol vehicles (LPPV), which we will get to Afghanistan as quickly as possible. The initial batch of 200 vehicles will be funded from the Treasury reserve as an urgent operational requirement. The LPPVs we are assessing through competition are at the cutting edge of technology, providing the optimum balance between protection, weight and manoeuvrability required by our armed forces on operations in Afghanistan.

This is in addition to the announcements I made on 15 December, of further reserve funding of £280 million for equipment for Afghanistan including additional vehicles, and £900 million of enhancements from the core defence programme, including 22 Chinook helicopters, an additional C-17, a doubling of our Reaper capability, and strengthening our counter-IED capability—funded by savings in lower priority areas, and based on our determination to support the current campaign and our belief that we expect such capabilities to feature in future conflicts.

We are not able to announce the outcome of the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme competition today. Following an assessment of the tenders from BAE Systems Global Combat Systems and Lockheed Martin UK Ampthill, we intend to invite the competitors to revise and confirm their bids. Further announcements will be made in due course.

I am, however, pleased to announce that on 19 March we reached agreement with the US Government to purchase three Rivet Joint aircraft and associated ground systems delivering vital capability for the Royal Air Force to replace the Nimrod R1 capability that will be retired from service in March 2011.

The Rivet Joint system was selected following an extensive assessment phase that considered a number of possible solutions. Rivet Joint was selected as it is the only viable option that meets the requirements of our armed forces.

I intend to make further announcements in the coming days about new and additional capability for our armed forces and defence contracts for UK industry.

Departmental Expenditure Limits (Replacement)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The following statement replaces information given in the Ministry of Defence previous departmental expenditure limits (DEL) written ministerial statement on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 29-30WS.

Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the DEL will be increased by £284,565,000, voted and non-voted, from £39,596,111,000 to £39,880,676,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	-33,261	222,396	38,660,976	439,112	39,100,088
Of which: Administration Budget	211	-	2,237,948	-	2,237,948
Near-cash in RDEL	-100,650	250,355	26,277,470	668,551	26,946,021
Capital	178,695	-	9,227,484	851	9,228,335
Depreciation*	-83,265		-8,438,227	-9,520	-8,447,747
Total	62,169	222,396	39,450,233	430,443	39,880,676

*Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The changes to the resource and capital elements of the DEL arise from:

Voted Resource DEL decrease £33,261,000:

RfRl:

(1) An increase of £100,000,000 Direct Resource near cash relief in RfRl, as agreed with Treasury from the Reserve.

(2) Resource transfers into RfRl from the Cabinet Office being their contribution to MOD security costs of £6,000,000 transfers from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of £6,695,000 and £1,965,000 for the Counter Narcotics Ground Force, and a transfer of £1,002,000 from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office being their contribution to the Information Assurance Technical Programme.

(3) A transfer of £211,000 from the Cabinet Office being their contribution to the Parliamentary Counsel cost (an increase in Administration Voted DEL).

(4) A net decrease in the cash release of provisions of £17,324,000 charged to RDEL (with a corresponding increase in the provision charge scored in AME) to reflect the latest forecast of outturn.

(5) To re-allocate the net resource impact of £35,000,000 for employee benefits under IFRS trigger point 3 from AME to Resource DEL, reflecting the revised control framework for this item.

(6) To reflect the revised, and reduced, resource impact assessment of disclosing three PFI contracts as finance leases under IAS 17, being a credit of £21,000,000.

(7) To reflect the revised resource impact resulting from a reduced service charge credit relating to Annington Homes of £18,000,000.

(8) To reflect the non cash resource impact, in the amount of £26,000,000, of implementing IFRS 17 on three PFI off balance sheet contracts now re-assessed as finance leases.

(9) To reflect the IFRS reduced near cash service charge of £178,000,000 impact of disclosing IFRIC 12 PFI assets on MOD's balance sheet.

(10) To increase Non-Budget Grants in Aid (Non Voted) for the Council of Reserve Forces and Cadets Association (RFCA) of £4,199,000 in the Central Top Level Budget (TLB) and £4,943,000 in Land TLB; £210,000 for the Marine and Sea Cadets Society by reducing Resource DEL current costs and increasing Non-Budget Grants in Aid with no overall impact on resource.

(11) To increase non budget funding by £10,991,000 from within Resource DEL to reflect the latest forecast of outturn for the Navy Command, Land Forces, and Central TLBs.

(12) To revise sub-head provisions to reflect Resource and Capital revisions in allocations between TLB Holders to match required defence outputs, with no overall impact on DEL.

RfR2:

(1) A net resource increase of £13,430,000 in non-cash depreciation and cost of capital costs to reflect the latest forecast cost of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

(2) A transfer in of £1,832,000 from the Department for International Development (DfID) being their contribution to the Global Pool (RfR2).

(3) To reflect a technical disclosure change by moving £6,729,000 from Voted to Non-Voted expenditure, relating to a transfer made to DfID in Winter Supplementary Estimates (WSE), with no overall impact on DEL.

Non-Voted Resource DEL increase £222,396,000:

RfRl:

(1) A net increase in the cash release of provisions of £17,324,000 charged to Non-Voted RDEL (with a corresponding increase in the provision charge scored in AME) to reflect the latest forecast of outturn.

(2) To reflect the IFRS reduced near cash service charge of £178,000,000 impact of disclosing IFRIC 12 PFI assets on MOD's balance sheet being a charge to Non-Voted resource.

(3) To reflect the Non-Voted impact of an increase in Non-Budget Grants in Aid (Non Voted) for the Council of RFC A of £4,199,000 in the Central TLB and £4,943,000 in Land TLB; £210,000 for the Marine and Sea Cadets Society by reducing Resource DEL current costs and increasing Non-Budget Grants in Aid with no overall impact on resource.

(4) To reflect the Non-Voted impact of an increase in Non-Budget funding by £10,991,000 from within Resource DEL to reflect the latest forecast of outturn for the Navy Command, Land Forces and Central TLBs.

RfR2:

(1) To reflect a technical disclosure change by moving £6,729,000 from Voted to Non-Voted expenditure, relating to a transfer made to DfID in WSE, with no overall impact on DEL.

Voted Capital DEL Increase: £178,695,000:

RfRl:

(1) A further increase in Fiscal Capital Resource of £5,000,000 to reflect Treasury reserve relief for lower capital receipts in Northern Ireland than originally forecasted.

(2) To reflect the capital impact of implementing IFRS 17 on three PFI off balance sheet contracts now re-assessed as Finance Leases of £13,000,000.

RfR2:

(1) To request a net increase in Capital DEL of £160,695,000 to reflect the latest forecast cost of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan funded from the reserve.

The changes to Resource DEL and Capital DEL will lead to an increased net cash requirement of £935,052,000.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

EU Energy Council (12 March)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): My noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change today made the following statement:

Andy Lebrecht, Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, represented the UK at the Energy Council in Brussels on 12 March.

The first item on the agenda was the draft regulation concerning the notification to the Commission of investment projects in energy infrastructure, on which the Council reached political agreement. Most issues, including the UK's previous areas of concerns (principally in relation to the extra burden on industry

and on member state administrations) were resolved during negotiations and agreement was reached with little discussion by member states.

The Council then agreed conclusions on the Commission Communication "Investing in the development of low carbon technologies", which sets out the strategic approach to energy research in the EU over the next 10 years. The UK is content with the text of the conclusions and pleased that the previous expectation of large increases in member state national spending has now been qualified.

The last substantive item was an exchange of views on the energy aspects of the Commission's proposed Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth initiative, based on a presentation by the Commission of its Communication published on 3 March. The Commission noted that energy was central to the Europe 2020 strategy, given its relevance to the economy, employment and climate change. In the discussion that followed, member states agreed on the value of the strategy, and on the importance of developing an energy action plan for 2010-14. There was general agreement that the energy action plans should cover energy efficiency, diversification of energy sources and research and development. The UK noted that the EU budget should reflect the 2020 priorities.

The presidency briefly updated the Council on the outcome of the informal Energy Council in Seville in January; on Russia-Ukraine energy relations; and on the latest report on the status of the EU electricity and gas markets. The Hungarian delegation reported on the energy security summit attended by representatives from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in Budapest on 24 February.

The Council ended with a working lunch where Commissioner Oettinger outlined his views on the Commission Work Programme on energy, focusing on policies to meet the 20/20/20 objectives, the need for proper implementation of the internal market package, and energy efficiency. He also emphasised his intention that the energy action plan should look beyond the short-term and set out a route map towards 2020 and 2050.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Marine Management Organisation

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I am pleased to announce that the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) will vest on 1 April 2010 as an executive non-departmental public body.

The MMO has been established by the Marine and Coastal Access Act, and will act as the UK Government's principal delivery body in the marine area in the waters around England and in the UK offshore area for matters that are not devolved and its centre of marine management expertise. The MMO will bring together a number of marine management activities from across Government, as well as delivering new marine planning, licensing and nature conservation functions created by the Act. This represents a real opportunity to provide an identifiable focus on marine matters and will make a contribution to achieving sustainable development by bringing together delivery of a number of marine functions within a single independent body, enabling integrated implementation of Government policy for the marine area.

The MMO will contribute to the Government's Public Service Agreement (PSA28)

"to secure a healthy environment in which we and future generations can prosper".

Its main areas of responsibility will encompass:

delivering an integrated system of marine planning;

delivering a streamlined, transparent and consistent system for licensing marine activities and developments;

contributing to conserving natural resources, eco-systems and species, including the development of marine protected areas;

modernisation and streamlining of the management and regulation of England's marine fisheries; and

contributing to responses, relationships and returns to the EU and international bodies.

In delivering the functions above, the MMO will work closely with a wide range of UK Government Departments with a policy interest in the marine area—the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Communities and Local Government (CLG), the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). The MMO will also deliver specific operational functions on behalf of DEFRA, DfT and DECC.

The MMO also has a requirement to manage its functions with the overarching objective of making a real contribution to the achievement of sustainable development in the marine area and in the wider context. I will issue the MMO guidance on how it should discharge its functions with regard to this objective, and a draft of this guidance will be laid in Parliament.

The organisation will be directed by an independent chair (Christopher Parry) and board, and led by a chief executive (Steven Gant). The MMO will have net operating costs in 2010-11 of £32.3 million. It consists of a headquarters office located in Newcastle, and a network of 18 coastal offices.

I announced on 12 February 2009 that the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) would be subsumed into the new body and that it would cease to be a separate Executive Agency. The remit and functions of the MFA will continue to be delivered within the wider remit of the MMO.

Stakeholders will receive the same professional services they currently receive from the MFA. As the MMO develops I expect to see stakeholders gain further benefit because the MMO will deliver:

a coherent, transparent delivery body for independently reconciling conflicting demands and pressures in the marine area including through the introduction of a new, integrated system of marine planning;

a modernised, accessible and streamlined licensing system, leading to structural efficiencies and savings;

a comprehensive approach to the formulation and implementation of policy in the marine area across Government;

an authoritative hub for information exchange and research in the marine area, providing access to its own data and an expert on what other sources are available;

a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development and partnership in the marine area providing a single focus for marine management issues; and

the positioning of the UK as the internationally recognised leader in marine management.

Since the Marine and Coastal Access Act received Royal Assent on 12 November 2009, my officials have been working to put in place the necessary legislation to commence and transfer appropriate powers and duties to the MMO to ensure that it is operational from

1 April. This began with the first Commencement Order which came into force on 12 January 2010, establishing the MMO as a body corporate, and is being followed by further Commencement Orders and mechanisms to transfer functions to the MMO. These will come into effect on 1 April.

The new marine planning function and streamlined licensing regime are currently either under consultation or in development and will come on stream after vesting. Current timetabling anticipates the new licensing regime to be operational from spring 2011, and marine plan areas to be agreed in that timeframe also which will enable the MMO to prioritise and begin work on this first marine plan.

Further details of the MMO's role and responsibilities are given in its corporate documents: the Framework Document, the Corporate Plan 2010-11 to 2012-13, and the Business Plan 2010-11. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be published on the MMO's website: www.marinemanagement.org.uk

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council (22 March)

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): The General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council will be held on 22 March in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FAC)

Haiti

Ministers will discuss the EU's response to Haiti and seek to agree a common position for the global donors' conference in New York on 31 March. This is likely to include: a common aggregated figure for EU commitment for reconstruction; a long-term plan for economic growth and development; and a commitment to joint programming to enhance aid effectiveness. Ministers will also discuss the creation of an "EU House" in Haiti to enhance co-ordination and represent EU donors not present on the ground. They may also discuss plans for further work on the EU's emergency response capability.

Chile

We expect Ministers to be updated on the latest developments following the tragic earthquake on Saturday 27 February. The UK has responded to specific requests made by the Chilean Government and provided £250,000 to the Red Cross and delivered 600 tents to World Vision through DFID and the MOD. With EU partners, the UK has provided €3 million for the relief effort through European Commission Humanitarian Aid.

Afghanistan/Pakistan

Ministers will discuss the work of the new EU Representative for Afghanistan, Vygaudas Ušackas, focusing on his immediate priorities. These include implementation of the EU action plan, follow-up to the London conference and preparations for the Kabul conference. The upcoming EU-Pakistan summit on 21 April may also be discussed.

Follow-up to Gymnich

Ministers will continue their discussions on how the EU's post-Lisbon structures can deliver more coherent, co-ordinated and effective EU actions, including in its relations with emerging powers. Ongoing planning for the European External Action Service may also be discussed under this item.

Any Other Business: Belarus/Ukraine/Moldova

Under AOB, Ministers are likely to discuss Belarus's treatment of its Polish minority, internal developments in Moldova and visa issues in relation to Ukraine and Moldova.

Middle East

Over lunch, Ministers will review recent developments on the MEPP with Quartet Representative, Tony Blair. Baroness Ashton is expected to brief on her visit to the region this week, and the Quartet meeting in Moscow on 19 March. Ministers are likely to agree an EU declaration for the EU/Israel Association Council, which will take place in Brussels on 23 March.

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC)

The GAC will present and discuss the draft Council conclusions for the spring European Council on the 25 and 26 March including points on EU2020 and climate change. On EU2020, we will seek to make progress on the agreement of a comprehensive European economic strategy that delivers strong, sustainable and balanced growth. On climate change, we will seek to ensure continued international focus on the goal of a legally binding treaty.

HEALTH

Departmental Expenditure Limits and Administration Cost Limits (2009-10)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien): The Department of Health's overall departmental expenditure limit (DEL) is unchanged from the written statement made on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 40WS, at £105,564,260,000, the administration cost limit is unchanged at £218,191,000. The impact on resource and capital is set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted £m	*Non-voted £m*	*Voted £m*	*Non-voted £m*	*Total £m*
Department of Health					
Resource DEL, of which		-100.000	101,795.986	-1,607.778	100,188.208
Administration Budget *			218.191	-	218.191
Near-cash in Resource DEL		-100.000	96,935.132	-308.409	96,626.723
Capital DEL		100.000	2,650.151	2,725.901	5,376.052

	Change		New DEL		
	Voted £m	Non-voted £m	Voted £m	Non-voted £m	Total £m
Total Department of Health DEL			104,446.137	1,118.123	105,564.260
Depreciation ""			-902.961	-177.166	-1,080.127
Total Department of Health spending (after adjustment)			103,543.176	940.957	104,484.133

*The total of "administration budget" and "Near cash in Resource DEL" figures may well be greater that the total resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.

**Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since the capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change results from a transfer from the revenue budget to the capital budget of £100,000,000 to meet existing commitments on pandemic flu.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Countering International Terrorism

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): Protecting the safety of the UK and our interests overseas is the primary duty of Government. International terrorism remains the pre-eminent threat to the security of the United Kingdom.

I have today published the first annual report of the Government's strategy for countering international terrorism, Contest (Cm 7833). This report provides a written account of our progress against the objectives set out in our strategy over the last year. The report has been developed to be read alongside the 2009 publication of Contest (Cm 7547) which remains one of the most comprehensive and wide-ranging approaches to tackling this threat in the world. Copies of the annual report will be made available in the Vote Office.

The greatest security threat we face continues to come from al-Qaeda and related groups and individuals. The nature of this threat has changed over the last 12 months. Al-Qaeda's leadership has come under severe pressure in Pakistan and NATO's presence across the border continues to deny them a safe haven in Afghanistan. However, an increase in the capability of some al-Qaeda affiliates and associated groups, highlighted by the attempted Detroit airline attack, demonstrates the evolving and diffuse threat we continue to face.

Contest explains how contemporary terrorist organisations aspire to use chemical, biological, radiological and even nuclear (CBRN) weapons. The availability of information on the internet, changing technology and the theft and smuggling of CBRN materials make this aspiration more realistic than it may have been in the past. To support delivering our response, I have also published today the United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Terrorism which addresses the specific threat posed by terrorist use of CBRN materials. A copy of the strategy will be placed in the House Library.

During 2009 thousands of people, including British citizens, have been killed or injured in terrorist attacks around the world. There have been no attacks, successful or unsuccessful, by international terrorist groups or individuals associated with them in the UK over the past 12 months. This reflects the resources and capabilities that we have put in place to deal with the threat. The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre, responsible for setting the UK threat level, currently assess that the UK threat level is severe meaning an attack is highly likely and could happen without warning at any time.

Our response continues to be based at all times on principles that reflect the core values of the UK including human rights, the rule of law, legitimate and accountable government, justice, freedom, tolerance and opportunity for all.

We recognise that our response must continue to be founded on partnerships across the spectrum from local, national to international. Communities, local authorities, Departments, agencies, devolved Administrations, and overseas partners all play vital roles in the successful delivery of Contest.

We judge that to date Contest has achieved its aim—to reduce the risk to the UK and to its interests overseas from international terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Joining up Africa: Regional Integration Conference

The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): In partnership with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the World Bank, the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, the European Commission and UK Trade and Investment, we organised a conference on African Regional Integration on 4 March 2010 in London. Around 200 representatives of African regional economic communities (RECs), African and development partner Governments, multilateral organisations, business and commercial bodies and civil society attended.

Regional integration is an important political and economic priority for Africa increasingly supported by its development partners. For example, last year the UK supported the North-South Corridor Conference in Lusaka where several African leaders announced plans to improve cross-border trade, reduce transport delays and costs, and promote investment. At that event donors agreed to provide over $2.5 billion of funding to upgrade road, rail, port and energy infrastructure.

The Joining up Africa event aimed to help maintain momentum and support for regional integration, and looked at how African institutions, donors, business and other investors can work better together.

I opened the conference and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs also addressed conference guests. Some 30 eminent speakers from a range of backgrounds spoke during discussions on how we can collectively overcome the political, economic and bureaucratic obstacles to greater regional integration. The major organisations represented at the conference agreed to sign an "Outcomes Statement", which can be found at: http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/Joining%20Africa%20-%20Final%20Outcomes%20Statement.pdf. Other development partners are being invited to sign this statement as well.

The statement highlights how essential greater regional integration is for Africa's growth and development. It recognises the urgent need to strengthen and increase support for regional integration as well as the need for more co-operation by all the relevant African stakeholders. The statement calls for action to:

speed up progress with transport, trade, energy and other infrastructure programmes at a regional level and to resolve the obstacles and non-tariff barriers to trade;

involve the private sector more effectively in support of regional integration;

make support for regional integration more effective by applying the key principles of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action regionally for the first time; and

give more support to the COMESA, EAC and SADC tripartite process and to encourage similar arrangements by the African Union and other RECs as steps to establishing an African Economic Community.

JUSTICE

Criminal Legal Aid

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Ministry of Justice is publishing today outline proposals for restructuring of the delivery of publicly funded criminal defence services. This follows the announcement in December 2009 that the Ministry would work closely with the Legal Services Commission (LSC), the Law Society and individual practitioners to develop such proposals by the end of March 2010, and that these would replace the LSC's planned pilots for best value tendering. Even with the necessary savings and reforms, our system of legal aid—civil and criminal—will still be far and away the best funded in the world.

The Government strongly believe that there must be a significant restructuring of the provision of criminal defence services in order to achieve greater value for money from legal aid, while still ensuring fair access to justice and enabling legal aid providers to remain profitable and sustainable. The Ministry of Justice policy statement proposes that this would be achieved by creating a more consolidated market, in which larger contracts are let to a smaller number of more efficient providers, enabling them to take advantage of economies of scale.

Other features of the proposals include:

contracts tendered across a whole criminal justice system area, and for the full range of services including higher value Crown court work;

opportunities for a range of providers to win contracts, including barristers chambers;

retaining the ability for individuals to choose a solicitor from among those firms that hold contracts; and

fostering innovation and efficiency on the part of providers by minimising contractual burdens, but balanced with strong financial audit controls.

The Ministry of Justice intends to undertake a consultation later this year on more detailed proposals, including a tendering model capable of delivering this restructured market. The Government will wish to consider the views expressed by respondents, including on any alternative options that would ensure the sustainability of criminal legal aid at reduced overall expenditure, before making final decisions.

Copies of the policy statement, "Restructuring the delivery of criminal defence services", will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The document will also be available from the publications section of the Ministry of Justice website at: www.justice.gov.uk.

JUSTICE

Capital and Income in Trusts

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): In May 2009, the Law Commission of England and Wales published its report: Capital and Income in Trusts: Classification and Apportionment (Law Com no 315). The report makes three legislative recommendations to reform aspects of the law on the classification and apportionment of income and capital in trusts.

The purpose of these reforms is to simplify and modernise trust law rules that create unnecessary expense, litigation and difficulty to trustees of both private and charitable trusts; to decrease the regulatory burden on the Charity Commission; and to facilitate total return investment by charities.

The Government have carefully considered the report and are pleased to announce that they accept the Law Commission's recommendations. It is now intended to consult on these reforms and the proposed draft legislation.

Electronic Conveyancing

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): Today, Land Registry is launching a formal consultation exercise to seek views on proposals to allow for electronic transfers and to extend the possible use of electronic legal charges (a form of mortgage).

The overarching aim of Land Registry's e-conveyancing programme is to make conveyancing easier for everyone, with an electronic system that makes buying and selling property less stressful for the public, conveyancing professionals and the other parties involved.

Proposed new land registration rules would prescribe an electronic transfer as an additional kind of electronic disposition of registered land in England and Wales. Existing rules made in 2008 provide for the creation of "standalone" electronic legal charges: the proposed new

rules would revoke the 2008 rules and allow for both standalone electronic legal charges and electronic charges accompanying a transfer. There is already provision for electronic discharges. The proposed new rules would, therefore, make it possible, for the first time, to carry out electronically each of the principal conveyancing steps in the typical sale and purchase of a house.

Subject to the outcome of the proposals and the advice and assistance of the Rule Committee, it is anticipated that the new rules would come into force during 2011.

Land Registry has today published a consultation paper "E-Conveyancing Secondary Legislation-part 3", copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Election Day (Weekend Voting Consultation)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): I have laid today before Parliament the Government's response to the "Election Day: Weekend Voting" consultation.

The right to vote is the basis of our political system. Strengthening our democracy requires the removal of barriers to the exercise of that right, so the system for delivering elections must be accessible and responsive to the needs of voters. To this end, the Government committed to consult on whether moving elections to the weekend might help to make voting more accessible and so potentially raise levels of turnout at elections. The consultation provided a further opportunity for debate about how the democratic process might better be shaped to the needs and preferences of citizens.

The "Election Day: Weekend Voting" consultation paper, published in June 2008, invited views on the merits of moving the voting day from the traditional Thursday to one or both days of the weekend for parliamentary and European parliamentary elections, and local elections in England and Wales; and on the best way to do this. The paper set out a range of issues that would need to be taken into account and invited views and evidence. These included the importance of ensuring that religious groups would continue to have opportunities to vote in a manner consistent with their beliefs, and the practical and resource considerations.

The Government launched the weekend voting consultation with an open mind on whether moving polling day could be expected to support greater participation. I am grateful that many people and organisations responded to the consultation. We have considered carefully the views expressed. It is clear that there is no simple or single solution to raising participation and addressing the issues of low or falling turnout, and the responses reveal that there is a wide range of views on the proposals that were put forward.

An overall majority of respondents favoured retaining election day on a weekday. Evidence provided by local authorities and electoral administrators suggested that a weekend poll, particularly one held over two days, would add considerably to the logistical complexity of running elections, particularly in terms of finding appropriate staff and premises. While a small majority of those members of the public who responded to the consultation supported proposals for weekend voting, there was no evidence that its introduction would have a significant positive impact on participation rates.

Overall, given the lack of consensus in favour of a moving election day, the Government do not propose to move forward with weekend voting at this time. However, recognising that there is some evidence of support among electors—albeit not conclusive here—we believe the issue should be further considered if additional evidence or a stronger view in favour of weekend voting were to become apparent in the future.

The results from the consultation suggest there is continued popular support for remote voting—whether by postal means as now, or potential electronic means in the future. But it is clear from the responses that people wish to be reassured that such methods are secure, transparent and cost-effective. This is an issue that will be kept under review.

The Government are committed to approaching change to the administration of elections in a balanced way to support accessibility and increased engagement but also to ensure that the security and integrity of the ballot is protected. Maintaining public confidence in elections is paramount and it is right that any proposal for change is taken forward only where there is broad support.

Parliamentary Candidates (Guidance on Declaration of Interests)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): The Ministry of Justice is publishing today guidance for all candidates at the forthcoming general election to assist them in issuing a declaration of their employment and other interests. The guidance has been produced in response to one of the recommendations contained in the twelfth report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) on MPs' expenses and allowances. The report said:

Recommendation 37

All candidates at parliamentary elections should publish, at nomination, a register of interests including the existence of other paid jobs and whether they intend to continue to hold them, if elected. The Ministry of Justice should issue guidance on this in time for the next general election. Following the election, consideration should be given as to whether the process should become a statutory part of the nominations process.[1]

All parties accepted the report's recommendations.

The guidance recommends that candidates issue a declaration of their interests against a number of categories. These are largely based on the categories of interest that sitting MPs are required to declare in the Register of Members' Financial Interests, with appropriate modifications and additions. These reflect the broader purpose of the candidate declaration of interests, as envisaged by the CSPL report, which is to enable the public to find out more about the background of candidates.

In line with the report's recommendation, the guidance is advisory only. It makes recommendations of best practice which candidates are encouraged to follow in making a declaration. However, candidates are under no obligation to issue a declaration or to follow the guidance in doing so. Candidates will face no legal

sanction should they choose not to publish a declaration, or as a result of the information that they do or do not declare.

Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The guidance has been published on the Ministry of Justice website. The Electoral Commission has also agreed to make a copy of the guidance available through its website. I will be writing to the leaders of all major parties to alert them to publication of the guidance. Separately, officials within the Ministry of Justice will contact directly those prospective parliamentary candidates for whom details are known at the point of publication of the guidance. However, it will ultimately be for candidates to make themselves aware of this guidance.

[1] MPs' Expenses and Allowances, November 2009, p89.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Inquiry Report

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): Publication of the report of the Bloody Sunday inquiry has been long-awaited and it promises to be a hugely significant event in Northern Ireland's history. But this is also an occasion that will have an enormous impact on the private lives of ordinary people. I am determined to ensure that arrangements for publication are fair and reasonable, and at all times, I intend to act reasonably in recognition of the interests of the families, soldiers and others involved in the inquiry, and of my obligations to Parliament.

I am responsible for publication of the tribunal's report, once it is delivered to me. I am advised that I have a duty, as a public authority under the Human Rights Act, to act in a way that is compatible with the European convention on human rights (ECHR). To fulfil this duty, I need to take steps to satisfy myself that publication of the report will not breach article 2 of the convention by putting the lives or safety of individuals at risk. I am advised that these obligations must be met by me personally, in my capacity as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Although the inquiry is also a public authority under the Human Rights Act, I am not entitled to rely on the inquiry to satisfy my article 2 obligations and I have a duty to assess this myself. I also have a duty to satisfy myself that publication will not put national security at risk, for example by disclosing details of sources of confidential information.

During the course of the inquiry, the Government submitted to the tribunal some material that was relevant to its work but which was too sensitive to be disclosed publicly, usually because it contained information which had been provided to the security forces by individuals. If these individuals could be identified from the details they provided it would endanger their lives. This was explained to the tribunal in public interest immunity certificates signed by Ministers, which the tribunal accepted. I understand that the tribunal does not intend to refer to any material covered by public interest immunity certificates, but I have a duty to satisfy myself before publication that none of this material has inadvertently been revealed in the report. The tribunal also agreed that the identities of a small number of individuals who were engaged on highly sensitive duties should not be disclosed and I need to be assured that these individuals have not been identified.

I intend to establish a very small team of officials and legal advisers to assist me in carrying out this necessary exercise. The team will need to include members drawn from the Ministry of Defence and the Security Service, who are familiar with the material covered by the public interest immunity certificates, but they will be granted access to the report under strict terms of confidentiality and for the sole purpose of carrying out the necessary checks, and they will report directly to me alone. For the avoidance of doubt, and contrary to some press reports, I want to make absolutely clear that this team will not include any legal representatives of the soldiers who were interested parties at the inquiry. In response to a proposal made by some of the families of those killed and wounded on Bloody Sunday, Lord Saville has agreed that this team can carry out the necessary checks on the inquiry's premises while the report remains in his custody, before it is submitted to me. I have confirmed to Lord Saville that I am content with this proposal. I understand that the report will be made available for checking some time this week.

I believe that these checks are absolutely necessary in order to meet the legal obligations on me. I have listened to the concerns raised with me by representatives of the families of those killed or injured on Bloody Sunday and I have sought to find ways to address those concerns. With this in mind, in addition to supporting the proposal made by the families that the checks take place while the report remains in the custody of Lord Saville, I have also sought Lord Saville's permission to allow counsel to the inquiry to be present during the checking process. He has agreed to this in principle, making it clear that they will be acting as representatives of the inquiry and not as advisers to me, or those who are reporting to me.

I want to publish the report in its entirety. Should any concerns about the safety of any individual arise, my first course of action would be to consider whether these can be addressed through alternative means. Were I to reach the conclusion, on advice, that a redaction to the text might be necessary, I would consult Lord Saville. In the very unlikely event that any redaction were deemed necessary, my intention would be to make this clear on the face of the report.

Once the checking process is complete, a publication date can be set and the report can be printed. The report will be published for this House, in response to an Order for a Return which I will invite the House to make. It is, of course, possible that a general election might be called in the meantime. Lord Saville has informed me that if it becomes clear that it will not be possible for the report to be published in advance of the Dissolution of Parliament, the tribunal will agree to retain custody of the report until after the general election.

The report must be published first for this House, but I acknowledge the importance of this inquiry's findings in the lives of a large number of individuals and I have received the consent of the Speaker to facilitate a period of advance sight on the day of publication to those most directly affected by the report's contents. I will

seek to offer advance sight on the day of publication to one representative of each of the families designated as full interested parties to the inquiry and to their legal representatives, without distinction between the families of those killed and of those wounded. Equal arrangements for advance sight will be offered to those soldiers most centrally involved in the subject matter of the inquiry. In keeping with practice for other public inquiries, some Members of this House will also be granted a period of advance sight on the day of publication to enable them to respond to the oral statement which I propose to make to this House on the day the report is published.

I am grateful to the Speaker for his acceptance of the proposals which I have made in relation to advance sight. I will write to Lord Saville, legal representatives of interested parties, the leaders of political parties and others as necessary to confirm arrangements as soon as possible.

PRIME MINISTER

National Security Strategy

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): The safety and security of our citizens is the most important duty of Government. In March 2008, I announced the publication of the UK's first ever national security strategy (NSS) and today, two years on, I am pleased to deliver a progress report, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House. This report outlines the range of work that has been done since March 2008 to ensure that we are best placed to respond to the broad range of national security risks identified in the first NSS, from terrorism, nuclear proliferation, conflict and stabilisation, organised crime, domestic emergencies, to new challenges including piracy and cyber security.

The report explains how the comprehensive framework provided by the NSS, and the first annual update in 2009, has mobilised Government to work together to strengthen our response across a range of fast-moving and interconnected security issues, and to meet rising public expectations about what Government should be doing to protect citizens, while also increasing transparency and accountability on security issues. The new framework ensures that our response is co-ordinated and flexible and that we are able not only to tackle threats as they arise, but also to act early to deal with the drivers of threats and the environments in which they arise.

This work is overseen by the new Cabinet Committee on National Security which was established in 2007, which includes all the relevant Ministers, police chiefs, as well as the heads of the agencies, the Chief of Defence Staff, and others. It has met very frequently on Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as a wide range of other issues. It is supported by the new national security secretariat in the Cabinet Office. The secretariat also co-ordinates national security policy work across Government, including contributing to the Defence Green Paper published in February, and the International Development White Paper "Building our Common Future", published in 2009. The national security forum established in 2009 ensures that Government work on national security is informed by independent expertise, and the new Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy, which will take evidence from Ministers later today, has improved parliamentary oversight.

As a result of this comprehensive whole-of-Government approach, we are better equipped to respond effectively to the immediate threats we face, including terrorism, conflict, serious organised crime and civil emergencies. Today, the Government have published the "CONTEST annual report" (Cm 7833) which sets out progress against our counter-terrorism strategy, updated a year ago and recognised as one of the most sophisticated in the world. We have continued to increase investment—from £1 billion a year on domestic counter-terrorism in 2001 to over £3 billion now, doubling the size of the Security Service and recruiting thousands more counter-terrorism police. We have set up a single border agency with police-level powers, and the new electronic border controls will be covering 95 per cent. of travel by the end of 2010. Watch list arrangements and aviation security more widely are subject to continuous review. But we are committed to combining strong defences at home with decisive action abroad with allies to tackle terrorism and extremism, including building up other countries' capacity to deal with terrorism themselves. Our priority remains the Afghan-Pakistan border areas—still the largest source of terrorist threat to the UK—but we have also had to respond to the diversifying threat from other countries such as Yemen and Somalia, which are covered in the progress report.

We have developed a comprehensive approach to stabilisation and development in failed and fragile states. In Afghanistan we were the first country to set up in 2008 a joint military-civilian headquarters to integrate the security and stabilisation aspects of our strategy—this team is now leading the stabilisation efforts following on from Operation Moshtarak in Helmand. In February this year we launched the new group of 1,150 skilled and experienced civilians constituting the civilian stabilisation group from which up to 200 can be deployed at any one time. After the recent tragedy in Haiti, a team from the stabilisation group was in the air just 12 hours after receiving a request from the UN.

Building on the successful work of the Serious Organised Crime Agency, established in 2006, we published an updated strategy for tackling organised crime in July 2009, strengthening the shared assessment of harm and risk across SOCA, the police and other agencies, and set up a new strategic centre for organised crime in the Home Office to drive activity across Government. A new Ministerial Committee devoted specifically to organised crime will meet for the first time this month.

In relation to work to improve our resilience against domestic emergencies, the preparations put in place by the Government, National Health Service and local responders allowed the UK to respond quickly and minimise the disruption caused by the H1N1 pandemic, and the World Health Organisation has described the UK as

"in the vanguard of countries worldwide in preparing for a pandemic".

Work continues on our critical infrastructure resilience programme as a response to Sir Michael Pitt's review of the floods in the summer of 2007. We publish today the first products of that work: "A Strategic Framework and Policy Statement"; "The Sector Resilience Plan for Critical Infrastructure 2010"; and "Interim Guidance

to the Economic Regulated Sectors". This work forms part of our wider efforts to reduce the vulnerability of national infrastructure and essential services to disruption from natural hazards. Copies of these documents have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

One of the fundamental principles underlying the NSS is the commitment to tackling long-term challenges early by paying attention to the drivers of insecurity, such as poverty, inequality and poor governance, climate change, and competition for energy and other natural resources. The 2009 International Development White Paper identified the need to focus more of our development efforts in conflict-affected and fragile states, and on state-building and peace-building objectives in these countries. The Department for Energy and Climate Change, established in October 2008, plays a critical role in leading our response to climate change and in developing a strategic approach to energy security. The Government's response to Malcolm Wicks' review of international energy security will be published shortly.

The NSS also covers work to secure the UK's interests in a range of environments where security challenges may arise, including the cyber, maritime and space domains. Last summer, we published the first ever cyber security strategy and, in September, established the office for cyber security and the cyber security operations centre. These new structures co-ordinate efforts across Government to ensure both that public sector systems are fully protected, and that citizens and businesses can take full advantage of the huge opportunities presented by cyberspace while reducing the risks that it poses to the UK, including from foreign actors or criminal, negligent or reckless activity. We are also developing a new national partnership to inspire talented young people to take up careers in information security to meet the need for highly skilled cyber security specialists.

As announced in the 2009 NSS update, we have been reviewing the security of the maritime domain, including piracy and counter-terrorism. A key area where we can strengthen our response to potential maritime incidents is through the integration and central co-ordination of maritime surveillance systems. I can annqunce today that work is beginning to establish a new multi-agency National Maritime Information Centre (NMIC) based at the Ministry of Defence's joint headquarters in Northwood. The Cabinet Office is also currently leading a review of the security of the UK's strategic interests in space.

In relation to nuclear security, the "Road to 2010" White Paper, published in July 2009, set out our response to the full range of nuclear challenges the UK faces, in preparation for President Obama's nuclear security summit in April, and the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) review conference in May. The Government are putting in place a package of enhanced nuclear security measures to demonstrate the UK's commitment to tackling the threat of nuclear terrorism, and to encourage other nations to follow suit. These include confirming our commitment to renew the G8 global partnership beyond 2012, with a renewed focus on nuclear and biological security; inviting an IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission to Sellafield; providing further funding to the IAEA nuclear security fund, to address the most urgent nuclear security needs overseas; and ratifying the two key international instruments for nuclear security (the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism; the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material). We have also just launched the UK's National Nuclear Centre of Excellence.

As the first NSS explained, the global security context is dynamic, interconnected, and unpredictable, and we are committed to strengthening our capacity to monitor risks, anticipate future threats, and respond accordingly. We have increased our horizon scanning capacity and better co-ordinated its use across Government to help us anticipate and prepare for future threats. We are publishing today the 2010 edition of the National Risk Register (first published in 2008), copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House. It reflects our latest assessment of the risks of terrorism, natural hazards, and man-made accidents which may significantly affect human welfare in the UK. Alongside this, we are publishing updated Crisis Response Arrangements (copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House) and beginning a public consultation on community resilience.

In the two years since the publication of the first NSS, we have made important progress, working together across Government and backed up by the hard work and dedication of the armed forces, security services, police and others. The nature of the threats we face, from piracy and cyber crime to terrorism and nuclear proliferation, is varied and ever changing, but we will continue in our endeavours to secure the UK, its values, its interests and its people.

TRANSPORT

Blue Badge Reform Programme

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): The Department for Transport has today published a consultation document containing proposals to ensure that the Blue Badge Scheme is more consistently administered, to clamp down on badge abuse and to help more people with severe mobility problems to access services more easily.

The proposals form part of the implementation of the Comprehensive Blue Badge Reform Strategy, published in October 2008.

Key proposals include:

Improving scheme enforcement through amendments to primary and secondary legislation.

Widening eligibility criteria through secondary legislation.

Improving funding to local authorities to help them deliver improved eligibility assessments.

We have been working closely with stakeholders in the development of these proposals and will consult on other aspects of the reform programme later in 2010 and 2011.

A copy of the consultation document and associated impact assessment has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment Programmes

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): I am setting out today how my Department can play a key role in the Government's plan to halve the budget deficit within four years. Through our employment programmes the Government have invested £5 billion to ensure that we can help people back into work as quickly as possible and this investment has helped to keep unemployment much lower than was previously expected. This, in turn, has helped to reduce the cost of out-of-work benefits: the claimant count planning assumption, published in the 2009 pre-Budget report would lead to a reduction in benefit expenditure of some £10 billion over five years, when compared with the assumptions used in Budget 2009.

My Department has a key role in helping to reduce Government borrowing. By helping more people back into work, DWP can help individuals as well as reduce expenditure on out-of-work benefits. It is important that this can be done as efficiently as possible, and I have today published a document—"Delivering more for less: the efficiency programme of the DWP"—showing how my Department has consistently delivered value for money by reducing back-office costs, sharing costs across Government and increasing the productivity of its staff. Due to these efficiency programmes, it has been possible to increase the quality of the services that we offer to customers, at the same time as reducing the cost to the taxpayer.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 23 March 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Companies House

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): I have set Companies House the following targets for the year 2010-11:

Customer

To achieve a score of more than 86 per cent. in each quarterly Companies House customer satisfaction survey.

To achieve on average a monthly compliance rate for accounts submitted of 96 per cent.

To achieve an electronic filing target for accounts of an average of at least 30 per cent. in quarter four.

To achieve an electronic filing target for other transactions of at least an average of 73 per cent. in quarter four.

To increase the proportion of transactions that can be filed electronically to 90 per cent. by March 2011.

To ensure that 97.5 per cent. of electronic documents can be accessed within 60 seconds by search customers from the Companies House download area.

To resolve 97 per cent. of all complaints within five days.

The chief executive to reply within 10 days to all letters from Members of Parliament delegated to him for reply.

Processes

To ensure that 96 per cent. of electronic transactions received are available to view on the public record within 72 hours.

To ensure that 95 per cent. of paper transactions received are available to view on the public record within eight days.

To ensure that 99.5 per cent. of images placed on the Companies House image system are legible and complete.

To ensure that Companies House Direct, WebCHeck and WebFiling are available 99 per cent. of the time.

People

To ensure that our average work days lost per person is no more than 10.

To improve the operational energy efficiency rating of Companies House's headquarters building by 10 per cent.

Finance

To achieve by 2010-11 a reduction, in real terms, of 15 per cent. compared to 2007-08 in the operational monetary cost of the registry per company on the register (three-year target).

To achieve taking one year with another, a 3.5 per cent. average rate of return based on the operating surplus expressed as a percentage of average net assets.

To pay invoices within 10 days of receipt.

UK Space Agency

The Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property (Mr. David Lammy): My noble Friend the Minister for Science and Innovation, Lord Drayson, has today made the following statement:

I am pleased to announce that it is intended to establish the UK Space Agency as an executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

From 1 April 2010, it is intended that the UK Space Agency will operate as a shadow executive agency prior to being established as a full executive agency.

The new agency is being created following the space innovation growth team report sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and a public consultation, which ran from July to October 2009, on how to fund and organise the civil space sector so that it can meet the challenges of the future and deliver the greatest benefits to the country. The agency will replace the British National Space Centre and bring together for the first time a range of UK space activities under one single management to enhance efficiencies and improve strategic decision making.

The agency's responsibilities will include scoping and delivering UK Government's space requirements, strengthening the UK's relationship with the European Space Agency; agreeing with UK industry how to maximise the benefits of space technologies; and working with the scientific community to provide a clear voice on decisions that affect the sector.

During the transition to a full executive agency, the shadow agency will begin to take over responsibility for BIS policy and key Government budgets for space. This will start with the ESA subscriptions currently funded by Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and Technology Strategy Board (TSB) and subsequently managing UK interests in EU projects including the space component of GMES, and Galileo. These are currently the responsibility of DEFRA and DFT respectively. Further policy transfers may be agreed. It has also been agreed in principle that the agency will manage the UK's financial interest in the EU Satellite Centre, which is currently the responsibility of the MOD; subject to further work. The shadow agency will also begin to take responsibility for space funding for technology and instruments currently carried out by the Research Councils and TSB. It will also negotiate on the UK's behalf on international bodies. The exact date for the creation of the full executive agency and the timescales for the shadow agency's assumption of the above responsibilities will be confirmed over the coming months.

The new agency will allow the UK to exploit fully its competitive advantage in satellites, robotics and related technologies and to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by a world increasingly dependent on advances in space innovations and science.

Debt Relief Orders

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): We are today launching a consultation about personal insolvency. Specifically, we are asking whether we should amend the eligibility criteria relating to debt relief orders (DROs) in order to allow access to those people who are currently excluded because they have pension rights based on a small current pension valuation that they cannot draw down for some years.

DROs were introduced in April 2009 following research that identified that there were people in long-term debt difficulties who had nothing to offer their creditors and who could not afford to make themselves bankrupt. Delivered in partnership with the professional debt advice sector, DROs provide low-cost easy access to debt relief for those overwhelmed by relatively low levels of unmanageable debt. They are designed to provide a fresh start for the most vulnerable people trapped in debt.

There are strict eligibility criteria of assets less than £300, debts of no more than £15,000 and surplus income of less than £50 per month. But because a pension is treated as an asset, some people who would otherwise qualify find themselves unable to apply for a DRO

because they have pension rights based on a pension that has a low current valuation. This consultation examines a number of options designed to make the system fairer for these people. In particular, we propose asking whether a pension should not count towards the value of assets provided that the current valuation is no more than either £1,000 or £5,000 or £10,000; and/or where the individual cannot draw down the pension for at least five years or 10 years. We also intend to ask whether there should be an additional requirement that the pension scheme must be one that is approved by HMRC.

I am placing copies of the consultation paper in the Libraries of both Houses.

We intend to actively engage with stakeholders throughout the consultation and welcome views on whether the proposals will deliver a workable solution that provides greater access to vulnerable debtors. The consultation will close on 23 June 2010.

Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009

The Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs (Kevin Brennan): My noble Friend the Minister for Postal Affairs and Employment Relations, Lord Young of Norwood Green, has today made the following statement:

I gave a commitment to this House in response to assurances sought by the noble Lord, Lord Low of Dalston during the report stage of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill to report on progress on three specific areas below. I can now report on the implementation of the apprenticeships provisions of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 and specifically how each of the commitments I gave will be taken forward.

A timescale for exercising the powers that are being taken under this legislation and associated regulations.

Sections 82-86; 104 and 106: will commence in full on 1 April 2010, at the same time as those sections relating to the chief executive of Skills Funding and the Young People's Learning Agency.

We expect that sections 1, 3-6,11-17, 23-27, 32-39 and 105 will come into force in April 2011.

We are currently working to establish a detailed timeline for the development of regulations. Specifically, we have begun preparatory work in relation to the regulations that are to be made under part 1, and in part 4, sections 92 and 95, using the anticipatory exercise of powers provision in section 13 of the Interpretation Act. The timeline for regulations to be laid, subject to the will of Parliament, is as follows:

Part 1, with the exception of section 1(5) relating to the alternative completion conditions—we expect to lay regulations in autumn 2010, and they will come into force in April 2011. The regulations in respect of section 1 (5) will be laid in spring 2011 and come into force in September 2011; and

Part 4, sections 91-99 will come into force in April 2013. Regulations to be made under sections 92 and 95 will be laid in the summer of 2012 and come into force in April 2013.

Work with key stakeholders on regulations, guidance and practical steps to encourage participation of those aged 19to24.

Mindful of the need to engage fully with stakeholders to help shape the development of the regulations apprenticeship offer requirements for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities under sections 92 and 95 we have established a stakeholder reference group to advise and work with officials and the national apprenticeship service. A preliminary meeting of the group was held on 25 February. At that meeting it was agreed to establish a small working group, chaired by Peter Little OBE, to consider and make recommendations on the specific flexibilities that the regulations should contain in relation to sections 92 and 95. The work of this group will inform the drafting of the regulations to be laid before Parliament in the summer of 2012. This work will also help to provide clarity on the scope of the proposed flexibilities and allow sufficient time for local authorities, delivery partners and learning providers to make appropriate preparation and provision for the regulations before they come into force in 2013.

A clear lead from the top that the recruitment of disabled apprentices should be a priority, with no less priority being given to disabled young people than they currently enjoy from the Learning and Skills Council.

We fully acknowledge that inequalities within the apprenticeship programme remain a challenge. Overall, the latest data show that of the 73,000 people who started an advanced or higher apprenticeship in 2007-08 only 9 per cent. considered themselves to have a learning difficulty/disability/health problem. These inequalities are not unique to apprenticeships—they are mirrored in the wider employment pattern—but many apprenticeships are still more segregated (by gender, ethnicity and disability) than the rest of the corresponding sector's workforce.

I can assure the House that disabled young people will be no less a priority for the chief executive of Skills Funding and the chief executive of the National Apprenticeships Service than they are currently. I have asked the Joint Apprenticeship Unit in my Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families to work with the National Apprenticeship Service to ensure that the service meets the commitment I gave to the House on increasing the proportion of learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in apprenticeships; and that equality and diversity is a key priority for their second year of operation and for the future. The National Apprenticeship Service is working with employers to help them understand and be more responsive to the needs of learners from under-represented groups; and to promote apprenticeships to those under-represented groups, their communities and key influencers, including parents, teachers, community leaders and support workers.

I am able to report also that initial discussions have taken place between the Joint Apprenticeship Unit, the National Apprenticeship Service and the Department for Work and Pensions to explore how additional learner support funds and the access to work programme can form a package to support better those learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to take up and sustain employment with training as an apprentice.

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 16 March 2010. The following items were on the agenda:

Alternative Investment Fund Managers (AIFM) Directive

The presidency deferred agreement on the AIFM Directive to a later Council meeting at the UK's request. The Government have made clear that the presidency's text is not acceptable in its current form, and believe that postponing agreement will provide an opportunity for further work on the draft directive to ensure proportionate regulation that operates effectively and properly strengthens the system, while realising the benefits of the EU single market. The directive broadly aims to establish a secure and harmonised EU framework for monitoring and supervising the risks that alternative investment fund managers pose to their investors, counterparties, other financial markets and financial stability more generally; and permit them, subject to compliance with certain requirements, to provide services and market their funds across the internal market.

VAT Invoicing Directive

ECOFIN agreed a general approach on proposals put forward by the Commission on the VAT Invoicing Directive. The UK supports the proposals, which aim to simplify and modernise electronic VAT invoicing, further harmonise general invoicing rules and reduce the burden on businesses. The directive will be adopted once the European Parliament has given its opinion.

Stability and Growth Pact: follow-up on Greece

The Council held an exchange of views on the basis of a Commission report that follows up the Council decision of 16 February 2010, giving notice to Greece to take measures for the deficit reduction judged necessary in order to remedy the situation of excessive deficit. Measures taken by the Greek authorities have been a combination of fiscal measures and structural reforms and include the announcements from the Greek authorities on 3 March of a further €4.8 billion in austerity measures. ECOFIN concluded that Greece is appropriately implementing the Council decision and stability programme, and that announced measures appear sufficient to safeguard 2010 budgetary targets provided that they are implemented effectively, fully and in a timely manner.

Preparation for the European Council

a) Europe 2020

ECOFIN agreed Council conclusions following the publication of the Commission communication on Europe 2020—a European strategy for smart sustainable and inclusive growth. The UK believes that the strategy should be focused on delivering strong, sustainable and balanced growth. After 25 and 26 March spring European Council, further work will be carried out by ECOFIN and other sectoral councils before returning to European Council for final agreement in June.

b) Exit strategies

The Council adopted two sets of Council conciusions, one on exit strategies in the financial sector, and one on the phasing out of temporary measures in labour and product markets. These will feed into further discussions at European Council.

c) Climate change finance

ECOFIN adopted Council conclusions on the economic and financial aspects of climate change. The UK believes it will be important to maintain the EU's ambition post-Copenhagen, especially on the financial commitments made, and also hopes that the EU will issue support for work by the high level advisory group on climate finance, which will meet for the first time in London later this month, co-chaired by the Prime Minister.

Budget guidelines for 2011

The Council adopted a statement on its priorities and budgetary policy, which will serve as a reference throughout the budgetary process to come. The UK is content with the guidelines, which reflect the need for budgetary discipline in a time of fiscal constraint.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Dawn Primarolo): I am today publishing two consultation documents as part of reviews of elements of the vetting and barring scheme as recommended by Sir Roger Singleton, the Government's chief adviser on the safety of children, in his recent report "Drawing the Line".

The first seeks views on a review of the statutory requirements, and the Government's advice, for Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosures for safeguarding purposes on those who work with vulnerable groups, when they are already registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).

The second seeks views on a review of whether there is a continuing need for the separate class of work with different requirements, defined in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 as "controlled activity".

I am also today publishing for consultation a revised version of the guidance "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education". This is the key safeguarding guidance for schools, and has been revised largely to take account of the implementation of the vetting and barring scheme under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. Changes are also included in response to "Keeping our School Safe", Sir Roger Singleton's review of safeguarding arrangements in independent schools, non-maintained special schools and boarding schools in England. The consultation also seeks views from the education sector on whether CRB checks should be required or recommended where an individual is registered with the ISA.

These consultations are available to download from: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations. Views are sought by 15 June 2010.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Minister responsible for food, farming and the environment, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) will represent the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 29 March.

Discussions will take place on four substantive items—Council conclusions on the Commission Communication on "A better functioning food supply chain in Europe"; presidency conclusions on the "Future of the CAP—market management measures post 2013"; an exchange of views on agriculture and the CAP in the perspective of the EU 2020 strategy; and the quarterly report from the Commission on the dairy market.

Under any other business, the Austrian delegation will provide information on the OECD ministerial meeting in February.

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): I have set the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) the following performance targets for 2010-11.

Value for public money

Finance—Achieve break-even performance and deliver efficiency gains

To demonstrate financial sustainability through full cost recovery, sound financial management and governance. Measured through achieving an audited break-even performance 2010-11 and delivering £0.5 million of efficiency gains.

Delivery

Customer satisfaction to exceed 82 per cent.

Measured through weighted average of customer response to post-contract survey that covers seven aspects of service quality. Incorporates project delivery metrics.

Social responsibility to exceed 75 per cent.

Measured through health and safety key performance indicators; delivery of strategic actions in CEFAS' health and safety plan; maintaining ISO14001 accreditation; and delivery of CEFAS sustainable development action plan.

Capability

Science excellence to exceed 75 per cent.

Measured through numbers of peer reviewed scientific papers, aspects of the customer satisfaction survey dealing with understanding customer needs and their rating of CEFAS' science quality; additional aspects are scored together and include take up of CEFAS science by the media, numbers of positions of influence held by CEFAS staff (high level science working groups and advisory positions); numbers of conference presentations; investment in new science through seedcom fund; staff qualifications and professional development.

Staff engagement to exceed 63 per cent.

Measured by an annual questionnaire to staff, using a weighted scale for the eight survey categories.

Further details are given in the CEFAS business plan 2010-11, a copy of which will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

HEALTH

People with Learning Difficulties (Health Care)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): I am today announcing the organisations that the Department has selected, following an open competitive procurement process, to:

carry out a time-limited confidential inquiry into premature and avoidable deaths of people with learning disabilities; and

provide a time-limited public health observatory service to help commissioners better understand the health and health care needs of people with learning disabilities in their local populations.

Contracts have been awarded to:

University of Bristol Norah Fry Research Centre (Bristol), to run the confidential inquiry; and

North-East Public Health Observatory (NEPHO) in partnership with the Centre for Disability Research at Lancaster University, to provide the public health observatory service.

Both these contracts have been awarded for an initial period of 12 months from March 2010, with the intention to extend them for a further two years until March 2013 subject to evaluation of the work carried out in the first year and availability of funds.

These contract awards follow recommendations made in "Healthcare for all", the report of the independent inquiry headed by Sir Jonathan Michael into access to health care for people with learning disabilities. The inquiry recommended that the Department establish a confidential inquiry to improve evidence for health and care professionals and a Public Health Observatory to improve data and information to support commissioning. As part of the "Valuing People Now" strategy for people with learning disabilities published last year, the Department gave a commitment to implement both these recommendations. These contract awards take forward that commitment.

These projects have an important part to play in delivering the improvements in health and health care for people with learning disabilities to which the Government are committed.

Bilateral Healthcare Agreement (UK and Isle of Man)

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): I would like to inform the House that, following further discussions between the Department and the Isle of Man Government, it has been agreed to defer the termination of the bilateral healthcare agreement between the UK and the Isle of Man by six months.

We have also agreed that the current 2009-10 financial allocation of £2.8 million given by the UK Government to the Isle of Man Government for elective treatment will be the last payment of this kind. From 2010-2011, no such payment will be made and no public money will change hands between the respective Governments. This new arrangement will bring the Isle of Man into line with other agreements that the UK has with a number of non-European economic area countries.

Both Governments have agreed to keep the situation under review with the expectation that it can form the basis of a new reciprocal healthcare agreement that would come into place in the autumn, if the new arrangement is working for both parties.

We believe that we have arrived at a position that not only provides the UK taxpayer with an agreement that represents value for money, but also ensures arrangements for travellers on temporary visits remain the same as they are today.

JUSTICE

Out-of-Court Disposals

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): On 14 December 2009 the Home Secretary, Attorney-General and I announced to Parliament the terms of reference for the review of the use of out-of-court disposals to be conducted by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR). I am issuing this written statement to update the House on further work that is being undertaken.

The initial work on the review provided a greater understanding of the operation of the existing out-of-court disposals frameworks for adults and young people. We plan now to seek further evidence by undertaking a detailed review of individual case files to examine the particular circumstances in which out-of-court disposals

have been administered for apparently serious offences. This will inform an examination of the broader policy of these frameworks and consideration of how to improve transparency and accountability in how out-of-court disposals are used.

This is a substantial piece of work and will require public consultation. We will continue to keep Parliament informed of progress.

Law on Libel

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I am publishing today the Government's views on reform of the law on libel in the light of the conclusions of the libel working group established by the Ministry of Justice; the recommendations of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee in its recent report on its inquiry on "Press Standards, Privacy and Libel"; and, the responses to our recent consultation paper "Defamation and the internet: the multiple publication rule".

As I announced in a written ministerial statement on 27 January 2010, *Official Report* column 58 WS, the libel working group was set up in response to concerns about the possibility that our libel laws were having a chilling effect on freedom of expression. Members of the working group reflected a range of interests and expertise, including organisations campaigning for free speech, claimant and defendant lawyers, media organisations, newspaper editors, and the academic and scientific communities.

The working group's terms of reference were

"to consider whether the law of libel, including the law relating to libel tourism, in England and Wales needs reform, and if so to make recommendations as to solutions".

The group focused on identifying key priorities relating to libel law in England and Wales, but did not consider issues relating to costs in defamation proceedings, where work is already under way.

The Government have taken a number of steps to control costs in defamation-related proceedings, ensuring that, where after-the-event insurance is taken out, defendants are notified as early as possible, and given the opportunity to reach a settlement without being liable for the insurance premiums. Defamation proceedings are now part of a mandatory costs budgeting pilot, with judges scrutinising costs as cases progress to ensure that they are proportionate and within the agreed budget. In addition, the Government are seeking to reduce the maximum "success fee" in conditional fee agreements in defamation-related proceedings to 10 per cent. as an interim measure so that the specific concerns around high costs in these cases can be addressed as quickly as possible.

The working group's report was submitted to me last week, and will be published on the Ministry of Justice website today, together with the Government's response to the consultation on the multiple publication rule, and copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. I would like to express my gratitude to all the members of the working group for contributing their knowledge and expertise and for the considerable amount of time and effort that they have put into considering these important issues and producing their analysis and options for reform within such a tight timetable.

On the basis of all the views that have been submitted, the Government are convinced that reform of the law on libel is needed, and that action should be taken on a number of aspects of the current law and procedures. We will take steps to implement the necessary changes on as timely a basis as possible. However, in some instances primary legislation may be necessary. Where this is the case, we propose to develop our thinking further and come forward with detailed proposals to include a draft Bill for introduction as soon as parliamentary time allows in the new Parliament.

In particular we will be considering actively:

a single publication rule: The introduction of a single publication rule whereby a defamation claim will have to be brought within one year from the date of the original publication, subject to judicial discretion to extend this period as necessary.

a new statutory defence: Consideration of whether a statutory defence relating to the public interest and responsible journalism can be developed in a way which reconciles the competing interests in relation to reputation and the right to freedom of expression.

libel tourism: Procedural changes as proposed by the libel working group to address problems relating to the issue of "libel tourism". These focus on a tightening, and so a more rigorous application, of the rules and practice in relation to service of defamation claims out of England and Wales where the court's permission is required, in order to head off inappropriate claims at the earliest possible stage. We believe that the working group's proposals in this area will provide effective practical benefits, and intend to raise them with the Civil Procedure Rule Committee and encourage the Committee to consider them as soon as possible.

other procedural issues that have been raised in the libel working group report and elsewhere, for example relating to changes to procedures to strengthen the defamation protocol governing pre-action behaviour and to resolve difficulties relating to decisions on the meaning of allegedly defamatory material at an early stage.

The Government believe that the programme of work that they intend to take forward represents an effective and practical way to ensure that our libel laws achieve a fair and just balance which enables people to protect their reputations against defamatory allegations without having a harmful effect on freedom of expression.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance Disregard

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Helen Goodman): I am pleased to announce that the full child maintenance disregard will be introduced on 12 April 2010.

In the child maintenance White Paper published in December 2006 the Government committed that by 2010-11 they would increase significantly the amount of maintenance that all parents with care on benefit can keep before it affects the level of benefits they receive. The first phase in meeting this commitment was taken in October 2008 when a full child maintenance disregard was introduced in housing and council tax benefits and doubled to £20 across the other income-related benefits.

In the welfare reform White Paper, "Raising expectations and increasing support; reforming welfare for the future", published in December 2008, the Government announced that a full child maintenance disregard would be introduced in all income-related benefits from April 2010.

By introducing a full child maintenance disregard, the Government are demonstrating their commitment to abolishing the revenue recovery function of the child maintenance system and instead focusing it on parental responsibility and tackling child poverty.

A full disregard will encourage both parents to set up an effective maintenance arrangement and the non-resident parent to pay maintenance because all of the money will go to the children rather than the state. It is important that both parents arrange maintenance agreements that provide reliable financial support for their children.

Workplace Pension Reform

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): Today we shall publish the Government response to the consultation on "The use of Default Options in workplace personal pensions and the use of group self invested personal pensions for automatic enrolment".

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 24 March 2010

TREASURY

Debt and Reserves Management Report (2010-11)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): The "Debt and Reserves Management Report 2010-11" is being published today. Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Parliamentary Answer (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ms Diana R. Johnson): An error has been identified in the answer to parliamentary question 280449 from 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 527W. The answer should have been:

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has provided the information in the following tables. The tables record figures for Great Britain.

Injuries to pupils/students[1] aged 1 to 18 years, reported to all enforcing authorities[2], 2003-04 to 2007-08[3]

Fatal injuries

Month	*Year*					*Total*
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
April	-	-	-	-	-	-
May	-	-	-	-	-	-
June	1	-	-	-	-	1
July	-	1	-	-	-	1
August	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	-	-	-	1	-	1
October	-	-	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	1	-	-	1
December	1	-	2	-	-	3
January	-	-	-	-	-	-
February	-	1	-	-	-	1
March	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	2	2	3	2	-	9

Non-fatal injuries

Month	*Year*					*Total*
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
April	134	150	203	294	353	1,134
May	171	257	297	544	554	1,823
June	297	225	295	605	522	1,944
July	179	168	185	345	333	1,210
August	25	37	29	40	50	181
September	226	290	301	758	714	2,289
October	247	243	304	722	828	2,346
November	259	327	671	848	1,005	3,110
December	167	158	406	453	504	1,688
January	256	264	626	719	800	2,645
February	220	211	521	549	664	2,165
March	372	242	827	829	708	2,978
Total	2,533	2,574	4,665	6,706	7,035	25,513

[1] Identified by Standard Occupational Classification (SOC2000) code (8002 'Student').

[2] Injuries are reported and defined under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995. These include injuries to employees, self-employed people and members of the public (including students). The information available under RIDDOR 95 includes two categories of severity for members of the public: fatal injuries and non-fatal injuries that cause a person to be taken from the site of the accident to hospital.

[3] The annual basis is the planning year 1 April to 31 March.

The original answer was incorrect because of an administrative error. Instead of information on children aged from one to 18 being reported, information on children aged one or 18 was supplied, thereby omitting information on those aged between two and 17.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination (Ms Rosie Winterton): On Monday 22 March the House approved by 169 to 110 an amendment, moved by Baroness Butler-Sloss, to the motion to approve the draft Norwich and Norfolk (Structural Changes) Order 2010 ("the Norwich order") which inserted at the end of the motion

"but this House regrets that Her Majesty's Government have laid before Parliament the draft order, which does not comply with the Government's published criteria with respect to affordability of the future structure, without providing more evidence on whether the course proposed is likely to achieve its declared policy objective; and calls on Her Majesty's Government not to proceed with the draft order before conducting further consultation with the residents of Norwich and Norfolk".

The amended motion approving the draft order was agreed by the House. A similarly amended motion approving the draft Exeter and Devon (Structural Changes) Order 2010 ("the Exeter order") was also agreed by the House.

The Government welcome the approval by the House of the draft orders, and note that the House disagreed by 54 to 118 in the case of the Norwich order, and by 53 to 110 in the case of the Exeter order, with amendments, moved by Lord Tope, that would have resulted in the orders not being approved. However, the Government are disappointed that the House regrets the draft orders were laid before Parliament and, in the light of the very full debate on Monday, have carefully considered the request of the House not to proceed with the draft orders before conducting further consultation with the residents of the areas involved.

The Government take very seriously the concerns and requests of the House but, for the reasons set out below, have decided that it is right now to proceed and to make the orders that the House has approved.

We remain of the view, as I set out in Monday's debate, that stakeholders and the public in the areas concerned have been consulted more than adequately.

Any case for further consultation can be justified only if some who might have expected to have been consulted have not been, or those consulted have not been given sufficient information to comment on the proposals. The Government are clear that neither of these circumstances arises.

Some 50,000 responses were received by the Government in response to our consultation period March to July 2007 on 16 unitary proposals. The Boundary Committee received a further 20,000 responses during their consideration of the issue in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk. The Government subsequently received 2,800 representations during the six weeks ending 19 January 2010, all from a mix of local people, the councils elected to represent them, other public sector organisations, businesses and third sectors. This was in addition to numerous meetings with councils in the affected areas. Moreover, during Monday's debate we heard noble Lords relay the views of various organisations and of course of local people.

It is not the case, as Baroness Shephard of Northwold suggested, that the Government have legislated to ensure the public could not be consulted. The legislation provides for consultation with the councils affected and with such other persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate. While the Secretary of State specifically sought views from the councils and those organisations well placed to comment on the proposals, we made clear that responses were welcome from anyone, and as I told the House, specifically asked the local councils to bring these matters to the attention of their communities.

The range of comments received demonstrates that consultees had more than sufficient information to comment fully on the proposals. Many focused their comments on the merits of the two-tier status quo arrangements, without necessarily referring to the criteria or to how particular unitary proposals matched up against those criteria. Others commented, again without necessarily referring to all or any of the criteria, about how any change to unitary structures was unnecessary as the two-tier system as modernised was delivering the same benefits as could be expected from unitary local government. Many referred to the impact of the current economic climate, some seeing this as reasons for not implementing unitary proposals, others seeing this as a reason for so doing.

Moreover, the longer-term outcomes specified by the strategic leadership and value for money services criteria are closely interconnected with questions about how the unitary structures would impact on the local economy and how the new Total Place approach could affect the delivery of local public services. Some when commenting referred to economic questions and collaborative partnership working characterised by the Total Place approach.

In short, the Government are clear that the case is not made out for further consultation, whether it is further consultation with residents or consultation with particular bodies.

As I put to noble Lords during Monday's debate, it is important to remember that the essential issue is whether the cities of Exeter and Norwich should have unitary councils with all the benefits that brings. Evidence of such benefits was outlined by noble Lords during the debate.

My noble Friend, the Baroness Hollis of Heigham highlighted how, as a unitary borough council prior to 1974, Norwich was able to attract business investment, built an airport, the city college and established what is now the university of East Anglia. But since it became a city council, its ability to act decisively in the interests of its residents has been fettered. My noble Friend, Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, gave examples of how the needs of Exeter as a city are not being met. For example, Exeter city council wanted to set up a trust foundation for education that was supported by the university, Exeter college and everyone in Exeter; it was stopped by the education department in the county council. She likewise referred to a new waste-to-energy building being developed in Exeter without any consultation with councillors in Exeter. My noble Friend the Lord Whitty referred to an article written by the chair of the Exeter chamber of commerce indicating all the frustrations which businesses in Exeter have with the two-tier system.

My noble Friend Lord Howarth of Newport cited the European Institute for Urban Affairs which had concluded that

"where cities have been given more freedom and resources, there is evidence they have responded by being more proactive, entrepreneurial and successful".

He reminded the House that one cannot produce evidence for something that has not yet happened. But as he said evidence from the past is that Norwich has been poorly served by Norfolk as Lady Hollis described; evidence from the present is that Norwich has been shortlisted for selection as the UK city of culture in 2013. The Baroness Murphy explained that what is good for the regional development of East Anglia and Norfolk as a whole, is what is crucial for Norwich—a centre of power to drive the local economy. The noble Lord Elystan-Morgan concluded that the communities in Exeter and Norwich "are giants with immense potential, but are shackled by the present system. It is right and proper that they should be given the opportunity to develop that potential".

In short, while as I recognised in Monday's debate the question whether to have unitary councils is one that is hotly debated, there is clear evidence of the benefits that unitary city councils can bring, evidence which the Government believe is sufficient for there to be confidence that the course we are proposing will achieve its declared policy objective, namely to promote the economic, social, and environmental success of the cities and surrounding county areas.

The affordability criterion provides that a change to unitary structures should have a payback period of no more than five years and that all costs incurred as a result of reorganisation are met locally without increasing council tax. The Government accept that the proposals for a unitary Exeter and a unitary Norwich do not meet this criterion to a limited degree, having payback periods a little longer than five years. There is no evidence to support the suggestion of Lord Burnett that a unitary Exeter will cost the average band D council tax payer in Devon approximately £200 a year extra. The Government also accept that the Norwich proposal, before the new Total Place approach to service delivery is taken into account, does not meet the value for money on services criterion. But, considered on their merits, the Government are clear that the risks of a slightly longer payback period are outweighed by the benefits for the local

economy that unitary councils would bring, benefits the likelihood of which is supported not least by the evidence heard in Monday's debate, and that with the new Total Place approach, Norwich will be able to shape and jointly deliver high-quality services across the whole area, with the economies that brings, but which also meet the diverse needs of urban and rural communities.

Moreover, as I explained to the House, if we proceed now the new unitary councils can be implemented in April 2011, already over four years after the original unitary proposals were made by the elected city councils for Exeter and Norwich. Any further delay now would make that date impossible, with implementation at its earliest being in April 2012.

Accordingly, for all the reasons above, the Government have concluded that it is now right to proceed. The other place has now approved the draft orders, by 251 to 163 in the case of Exeter, and by 249 to 171 in the case of Norwich. In all the circumstances, therefore, the Government now intend to make the Exeter and Norwich orders as soon as practicable.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

The Wreck of HMS Victory

The Minister of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Margaret Hodge): The wreck of "Balchin's Victory", lost in 1744, was discovered in the English channel in 2009. In view of the unique importance of this find for naval heritage and the intrinsic value of the wreck as a cultural artefact, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are issuing a public consultation paper on the future management approach for the wreck site. The consultation paper will be available through the websites of both Departments, and can be found at: http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/Corporate Publications/ConsultationsandCommunications/PublicConsultations/

Hard copies of the paper are also available on request.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Renewables Obligation Order Debate (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): My noble Friend the Minister for Energy and Climate Change today made the following statement.

In reply to a question from my noble Friend Lord Woolmer, my noble Friend Lord Faulkner said that Ofgem were against removing the co-firing cap. As my noble Friend is aware this is not the case. In their response to the renewables obligation consultation in October last year they said:

"No we don't agree with the proposal to retain the cap on co-firing. We would like to see the cap removed going forward. The cap potentially disadvantages independent co-firing generators if vertically integrated suppliers self-supply a considerable proportion of their demand for co-firing ROCs. This would mean that the market for independent generators may be smaller than that implied by the cap. We also are concerned that the cap constrains the contribution to our renewable energy targets from a relatively low-cost renewable technology. This might be the case if independent generators constrain output below the level at which they perceive there is a risk that a supplier with demand for ROCs could negotiate ROC price discounts. We also think the concerns about the potential volatility of co-firing volumes could have on ROC prices are overstated. This is because of the reduction in the number of ROC given to co-firing (down to 0.5 ROC/MWh) and the headroom will effectively set the size of the obligation from 2010-11".

I would like to clarify also that Ofgem's response is available on their website at http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/Policy/Documents1/RFI%20response.pdf and summaries of the 733 responses received to the RFI consultation are available on our website at http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx.

The actual responses—less some confidential material—are available at http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx .

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (Springfields Site)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): My noble Friend the Minister for Energy and Climate Change today made the following statement.

I would like to inform the House that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has successfully reached agreement with Westinghouse Electric Company LLC (WEC) on new commercial arrangements for the Springfields site and fuel manufacturing. The agreement will see the commercial operations and staff transfer fully to WEC, which is the current site management contractor, and the NDA land leased to WEC on a long-term basis. In addition to providing an income stream for the NDA, the new arrangements and plans for the site are expected to reduce significantly NDA's decommissioning liabilities, representing excellent value for the UK taxpayer.

We welcome and fully support the agreement, which is expected to protect and enhance the site's long-term commercial sustainability through investment and expansion of existing fuel operations. The agreement demonstrates further that major energy companies are gearing up for significant investment in the low-carbon energy sector in the UK.

In this context, a direction modifying the Energy Act designating directions for the Springfields site has been laid before Parliament. Specifically, the designating directions have been amended to add additional functions, allowing the site to undertake new fuel manufacturing activities.

Any new developments on the site will be subject to regulatory and other consenting processes.

JUSTICE

Courts and Tribunals

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Budget today that the Ministry of Justice will be moving to bring together Her Majesty's Courts Service and the Tribunals Service into a new single organisation.

Her Majesty's Courts Service and the Tribunals Service between them provide the administration for the courts in England and Wales and most of the non-devolved tribunals in the United Kingdom. They share the common purpose of providing access to justice, whether in the criminal, civil or administrative justice fields. We aim to bring these broadly similar functions together into a new single organisation for the efficient delivery of access to justice.

Creating a unified service holds out the prospect of significant benefits to the users of courts and tribunals, to the taxpayer and to the administration of justice generally. There is the potential for improved service provision for users through joint administration and shared hearing venues. The new arrangements will also facilitate the building of a unified judicial family in England and Wales.

The new structure will preserve the unique and distinctive features of both systems while taking advantage of the benefits to users, judges and staff from closer working. We will ensure that the statutory responsibilities of both the Lord Chief Justice for the courts and the Senior President of Tribunals for the tribunals are respected and preserved. There are also a number of important differences between the two organisations which will need to be given careful consideration in planning for the new organisation. These include the different territorial coverage of HMCS and the Tribunals Service, their different governance arrangements and judicial structures and the different regional and jurisdictional structures currently in place.

In addition, and following a recent public consultation on the future of the Parole Board, we will consider the opportunities that this new organisation offers to secure the board's position in the justice system, so that it is best placed to deliver timely, rigorous and fair decisions.

A considerable amount of detailed planning will need to take place before the new organisation can be formed and we will be working together closely in the coming months to design arrangements that will work effectively and deliver the desired results. There will be full consultation on the developed proposals with those representing users of the courts and tribunals, the judiciary, trades unions and all of those affected in the Scottish and Northern Irish legal systems and wider public before implementation.

PRIME MINISTER

Public Sector Senior Remuneration

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): The Review Body on Senior Salaries' "Initial Report on Public Sector Senior Remuneration 2010" (Cm 7848) is being published today. I commissioned this report in December alongside the publication of "Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government" (Cm 7753). The report includes a set of principles for senior pay embedded in a code of practice on top-level reward. It is recommended that this code is adopted across the public sector after a period of consultation.

Copies of the report have been laid in the Vote Office and the Library of the House. I am grateful to the chairman and those involved in the review for their work.

The Government welcome the initial report, which builds on the other measures which I have announced to ensure value for money from senior pay in the public sector, including:

- the decision not to increase base pay for the senior civil service, the judiciary, the senior military, very senior NHS managers, hospital consultants, independent contractor general medical and dental practitioners and Government Ministers in 2010-11, 10 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 16WS;
- the new arrangements for scrutiny, transparency and accountability set out in the 2009 pre-Budget report (Cm 7747), in particular the requirement for approval by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury or public justification of salaries in excess of £150,000 and bonuses greater than £50,000, and publication of the names of those earning more than £150,000 and the numbers of those earning more than £50,000; and
- tough decisions to deliver savings of £100 million annually within three years from reducing unnecessary civil service bureaucracy and the cost of the senior civil service, and to seek a 1 per cent. cap on basic pay uplifts across the public sector for 2011-12 and 2012-13, generating savings of £3.4 billion a year by 2012-13.

The Government agree with the report's findings that a clearer framework is needed for those that make decisions on senior pay. Pay decisions in all public sector organisations should wherever possible be determined by independent remuneration committees and there should be clear escalation mechanism in each sector for any proposals to pay above agreed norms.

In line with the terms of reference of the review, I will now commission the review body to develop sector-specific benchmark ranges for senior pay. I will ask the review body to begin with local authority chief executives and senior managers in the health sector, reporting by the end of 2010. They will then consider the position in further and higher education by March 2011.

The Government will work with the review body to determine how the code should be implemented in each sector, and to determine what legislative and non-statutory means are most appropriate to enforce compliance. The Government believe that the key organisations and representative bodies in each sector should be involved in the process of implementation, and that all public sector organisations should set out publicly how they intend to comply with the code by the end of year.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 25 March 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Insolvency Service Performance Targets (2010-11)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): I have today agreed to the publishing of "The Insolvency Service's Corporate Plan" for the period 2010-11.

As a result of changes in public behaviour, with individuals increasingly opting for voluntary insolvency and bankruptcy procedures, the Insolvency Service is planning in 2010-11 to deal with a level of new compulsory insolvency cases within a range of 71,500 to 80,000, significantly less than was predicted in 2009.

The service is also planning to deal with a range of 120,000 to 150,000 redundancy payments and other insolvency-related claims during 2010-11.

The service's "Enabling the Future" programme, a major programme of IT-led investment, and its service transformation plan to implement online services and improve its customers' experience, will deliver significant savings for the service and its customers over the next five years. In 2010-11 the service will review its long-term fees strategy, with a view to reducing its bad provision and the use of BIS funding to cover working capital. This will enable the service to achieve a real-terms reduction in insolvency case administration fees of 2.5 per cent.

Action will continue to be taken against bankrupts and company directors in respect of financial misconduct or dishonesty and the service will continue to investigate the affairs of companies in the public interest. In 2009 the service undertook a new stakeholder satisfaction survey for confidence in its enforcement regime, achieving an overall confidence level of 68 per cent. I have asked the service at least to maintain this level during 2010-11 and I have also set a target in relation to the timeliness of instigating disqualification proceedings in appropriate cases.

I have set targets in relation to the timeliness of releasing reports to creditors in bankruptcy and insolvency cases, and of processing claims for redundancy payments. Also, a target has been set in relation to the overall satisfaction levels of the service's users.

The corporate plan will be available from 1 April 2010 at: http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/aboutus/CorporatePlan.pdf

INSS Published Targets	*2009-10 Target*	*2010-11 Target*
Customer Focus		
User Satisfaction levels as measured through the Agency User Satisfaction Index[1]	90%	90%
Case Administration		
Level of real term reduction in fees for insolvency case administration	Year 3 of a 15% target	2.5%
Percentage of reports issued to creditors within 8 weeks		
For bankruptcy cases	N/A	92%
For company cases	N/A	80%
Enforcement		
Stakeholder confidence in The Insolvency Service's enforcement regime	N/A	68%
The average time from insolvency order to the instigation of disqualification proceedings in appropriate cases	20 Months	19 Months
Redundancy Payments		
Action redundancy payment claims		
Within 3 weeks	78%	78%
Within 6 weeks	92%	92%

[1]his is a combined indicator covering bankruptcy and redundancy cases.

The service will also look to build upon its charter mark accreditation (held since 1999) by obtaining customer service excellence accreditation in 2010, and will work towards Investors in People re-accreditation in 2011-12.

In addition to these targets the service is required to meet centrally promulgated targets relating to replying to correspondence from hon. Members, and making payments to suppliers.

Other Targets	*2009-10 Target*	*2010-11 Target*
Reply to correspondence from Members of Parliament within 10 days	100%	100%
Process payments to suppliers within 30 days	100%	100%

The Government have also instructed Departments and agencies to maximise levels of payment of undisputed invoices within eight days.

National Minimum Wage

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Pat McFadden): In June 2009 the Government asked the Low Pay Commission to produce their next report on the national minimum wage by the end of February 2010. I would like to thank the Commissioners for all their hard work.

The Low Pay Commission's 2010 report

The main recommendations put forward by the Low Pay Commission concern the rates of the minimum wage and an apprentice minimum wage. The Commission have recommended that the adult hourly rate of the minimum wage should increase from £5.80 to £5.93. They have also recommended increasing the development rate (which will cover workers aged 18-20 years) from £4.83 to £4.92 and that the rate for 16 to17-year-olds moves from £3.57 to £3.64. They recommend that these changes take place in October 2010.

The Commission has also recommended that there should be a single apprentice minimum wage rate of £2.50 per hour for those apprentices currently exempt

from the national minimum wage; that is, all those under the age of 19 and those aged 19 and over in the first 12 months of their apprenticeship.

The Government accept these recommendations.

In addition, the Government accept the Commission's recommendations that there should be specific guidance on the national minimum wage for the entertainment sector; and that HMRC investigates whether contract and agency cleaners in the hotel sector are receiving their entitlement under the national minimum wage for their hours worked.

The Government note the Commission's recommendation that there should be a commitment, as a minimum, to maintaining current funding in real terms for monitoring and enforcement of the national minimum wage until at least March 2014.

Government's response to individual recommendations in the Low Pay Commission's 2010 report:

National Minimum Wage rates

We recommend that the adult minimum wage rate should increase from £5.80 to £5.93 from October 2010.

We recommend that the youth development rate should increase from £4.83 to £4.92 and that the 16 to 17-year-old rate should increase from £3.57 to £3.64 from October 2010.

We recommend that the accommodation offset should increase from £4.51 to £4.61 per day from October 2010.

Apprentices

We recommend that non-employed apprentices are excluded from the apprentice minimum wage and continue to be exempt from the national minimum wage.

We recommend that the apprentice minimum wage be applied as a single rate to those apprentices currently exempt from the national minimum wage. That is, all those under the age of 19 and those aged 19 and over in the first 12 months of their apprenticeship. The wage should cover both those employed on traditional contracts of apprenticeship and employed apprentices on Government-supported level 2 and 3 schemes.

We recommend that all hours of work and training (relating to both on-the-job and off-the-job) under an apprenticeship should be counted as hours for which the apprentice wage must be paid. All hours should be paid at the same wage rate.

We recommend that the apprentice minimum wage be set at an hourly rate.

We recommend the apprentice wage is set at a rate of £2.50 per hour and is introduced from October 2010.

We recommend that in England transitional arrangements are put in place so that current apprentices retain a contractual entitlement to at least £95 per week for the remainder of their apprenticeship or until they are entitled to the national minimum wage.

We recommend that the Government include the review of the apprentice minimum wage rate and arrangements in our annual terms of reference.

Particular Groups of Workers

We recommend that the Government produce, in conjunction with interested parties, sector-specific guidance on the national minimum wage for the entertainment sector.

We recommend that HMRC investigates whether contract and agency cleaners in the hotel sector are receiving their entitlement under the national minimum wage for their hours worked.

Compliance and Enforcement

We recommend that the Government commit, as a minimum, to maintaining current funding in real terms for monitoring and enforcement of the national minimum wage until at least March 2014.

The Government will consider the level of funding for national minimum wage monitoring and enforcement as part of the wider next spending review settlement discussion and will announce a decision on this at the same time as the settlement. We have today published our National Minimum Wage Compliance Strategy which highlights how we aim to maximise our compliance impact and emphasises the importance that the Government place on our enforcement activities

Copies of the Low Pay Commission's 2010 report and the National Minimum Wage Compliance Strategy have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council House Finance

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): I am publishing today for consultation a prospectus setting out our detailed plans for reforming council housing finance in England. My objective in doing this is to dismantle the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy system which was introduced in 1935 and has operated in its current form since 1989. I want to replace it with a devolved system of responsibility and funding for council housing.

I want to provide more flexibility in finances and more transparency in the operation of the system. I want to devolve control from central to local government. And, in return, I want to increase local responsibility and accountability for long term planning and housing management to meet the needs of local people.

The current redistributive Housing Revenue Account Subsidy system has a long history and a clear rationale. Councils have different spending needs and different capacities to raise income. Without redistribution, some councils would have to charge higher rents or deliver lower quality services. But the annual uncertainty of subsidy decisions has inhibited long-term planning and asset management and it has meant that council landlords are less accountable to their tenants.

On 30 June 2009 I announced the Government's proposals for replacing the centralised annual subsidy system with a devolved self-financing system. Under this, councils will finance their own housing from their own rents, in exchange for a one-off redistribution of housing debt to make the settlement financially neutral between central and local government. Freeing councils from the annual funding decisions in the current system will enable them to plan long-term, secure greater efficiencies and improve the management of their homes and the quality of service to their tenants. This reform involves 1.8 million homes, 177 councils and a total annual budget of over £6 billion.

The consultation on our broad proposals ended on 27 October 2009. We received 223 responses showing strong support for our proposed system of self-financing, which many in local government have been calling for over many years. Since then we have worked closely with local authorities, experts and representative bodies in a Government-led project group to develop soundly based and detailed proposals. I am grateful to all those who have contributed to this work.

The detailed plans I am publishing today for local self-financing and management mean 4.2 million people living in council homes will have landlords with more money to maintain their homes and neighbourhoods. This reform will guarantee tenants whose homes have been upgraded through the Government's Decent Homes programme that their homes will be maintained at least to this standard for the future.

I can confirm the detailed principles and terms on which our plan for this self-financing settlement is based. These include:

All councils will have at least 10 per cent. more each year to spend on managing, maintaining and repairing their homes—the equivalent of over £500 million more per year nationally. This deals with the underfunding for maintenance which was identified in the review of Council Housing Finance last year.

There will be a one-off distribution and allocation of debt between local authorities in order to put all councils in an equal position to support their stock from their future income without the need for annual subsidy. The total debt that is supported in the current system will be around £21.48 billion by April 2011. The value of the stock under self-financing using our lead option of a 7 per cent. discount rate is £25.13 billion. This means there will be a net receipt for Government of around £3.65 billion at the point of the self-financing settlement, making this settlement neutral between central and local government.

All rents and receipts from sales of houses and land within the HRA will be retained in full by the local authority. By ending the national pooling of all capital receipts, we will support local authorities in creating full asset management strategies covering both capital and revenue.

No local authority will have a proposed allocation of housing debt which is not sustainable for the long-term.

Rental income assumed in the calculation of debt is based on current rental policy which is designed to keep rents affordable and limit annual increases to tenants.

Funding capacity created for a new generation of council house building.

Since the late 1980s, councils have effectively been unable to build new council houses for their communities. I have now made social housing grant available to local authorities and released funding for two rounds of local authority new build schemes. As a result, we have underway this year, with the first round funding, schemes to build over 2,000 new council houses, the largest council house building programme for nearly two decades. In total over 87 councils, led by all political parties, will start more than 4,000 homes over this year and next.

Today's announcement and the self-financing reform means we can go much further. My plans set the self-financing settlement with a 7 per cent. discount rate at a level which will give councils, after they have met the spending needs to manage and maintain their existing homes, the capacity to fund 10,000 new council homes each year from 2014-15—a five-fold increase in the council house building programme in the current year; this would generate over 20,000 jobs and over 1,000 apprenticeships. Councils will be able to build new homes without increasing local authority borrowing once the self-financing settlement is in place.

I am looking to establish as part of this consultation whether local authorities have the will to use this funding capacity to build new homes to help meet local housing needs. The response of local government to this challenge in the consultation will help us determine whether our lead option of a 7 per cent. discount rate is appropriate for the final terms of the self-financing settlement.

The Government are totally committed to completing the Decent Homes programme and recognise that £3.2 billion of works are still needed to meet their Decent Homes commitment. Meeting this investment need will therefore be a central element of their decisions on investment priorities at the next spending review.

Self-financing will fundamentally change the relationship between central Government and local authority landlords. It both strengthens local accountability and creates a more strategic relationship between local authorities and central Government. Today's consultation makes proposals for improving the accounting and financial framework within which self-financing will operate. This will provide assurances that, there will be sufficient safeguards for tenants and local and national taxpayers, under a devolved financing system.

The settlement will provide councils with the resources they need for effective management of their housing without recourse to further borrowing. Because of this, we will set a cap on the borrowing each local authority can service from the HRA, based on the opening debt. The prospectus sets out details for the calculation of this cap. It is a fiscally prudent deal which protects the interests of tenants and taxpayers.

This is a once and for all settlement. Any major future policy changes would need also to take into account the financial consequences as an additional consideration and funding transaction. If this plan and the terms set out in the prospectus are broadly accepted by local authorities, this devolved system of financing and accountability could be in place by 2011-12 through a voluntary agreement between Government and councils. If not, legislation will be required, delaying implementation by at least a year.

I hope local authorities will seize this opportunity for radical reform of the HRA subsidy system which they have long criticized, and this opportunity to build new council homes for their local communities.

In order to assist councils in examining the potential of this self-financing deal for their housing services and tenants, CLG officials will be available to meet and explain the proposals during the consultation period.

I urge all local authorities to examine carefully the plans I am publishing today, and to respond fully to our consultation. The consultation will run until 6 July.

Council Tax

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Barbara Follett): This statement concerns council tax and the action the Government propose to take in relation to authorities that have set excessive budget requirements for 2010-11.

Yesterday my Department released figures showing that the average band D council tax increase in England next year will be 1.8 per cent.—the lowest ever average increase. This is welcome news for council tax payers and has been made possible by concerted action by both Government and local authorities.

The Government have ensured that all authorities overall have benefited from good grant increases during the current three-year settlement period, with above inflation grant increases in all of the years of the current three year settlement—including an increase of 4 per cent. overall in 2010-11. This, combined with rigorous enforcement of the "new burdens doctrine" and action to cap excessive council tax increases in previous years, has helped ensure that 2010-11 will see the lowest average increase in council tax since its introduction in 1993-94.

Local government has also played its part. It is clear from the figures that most authorities have behaved responsibly and taken into account the effect of their 2010-11 increases on council tax payers. A number of authorities have frozen or reduced their council tax. In many cases, they will have made tough choices about local priorities and delivered efficiency savings to do this. I commend these authorities for working hard to keep demands on council tax payers to a minimum.

Nevertheless, it is important to ensure that council tax payers are protected from excessive increases. All authorities are aware that the Government are prepared to use its capping powers to achieve this. In my statement to the House on the provisional local government finance settlement made on 26 November 2009, I made clear we would take action against excessive rises where necessary. I restated this in a letter to all local authority leaders dated 9 December 2009.

Where council tax payers are faced with excessive increases it is right that we should once again take action to protect them. I am therefore setting out for the House the action that we are proposing.

Our capping principles are that an authority's 2010-11 budget requirement is excessive if:

the amount calculated by the authority as its budget requirement for the financial year 2010-11 is more than 3.5 per cent. greater than the authority's budget requirement for the financial year 2009-10; and

the amount calculated by the authority as its band D council tax for the financial year 2010-11 is more than 4.5 per cent. greater than the authority's band D council tax for 2009-10.

An authority must exceed both the budget requirement principle and the council tax principle to be subject to capping action.

Two authorities—the police authorities of Greater Manchester and Nottinghamshire—have exceeded these principles.

The action the Government have decided to take against these authorities is to cap both in advance for 2011-12. The Government are minded to propose a maximum budget requirement ("a cap") for 2011-12 for each authority at a level which is equivalent to a council tax increase of around 4.5 per cent. for each of the financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12.

The statutory process involved is that at this stage the Secretary of State "nominates" the authorities under section 52D of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("the Act") and decides whether to "designate" them in advance for 2011-12 under section 52L of the Act. In due course, the Secretary of State will designate the authorities under section 52M of the Act and propose a cap for each authority for 2011-12.

This action means that the authorities will not need to undertake rebilling in 2010-11, but council tax payers in those areas can be reassured that action is being taken to restrict these authorities' council tax increases in 2011-12.

My officials are writing to both authorities today to inform them of their nomination and of the Secretary of State's decision to designate them in advance for 2011-12. However, the authorities will not be designated and informed of their proposed caps for 2011-12 until later in the year. This will be at around the same time as the provisional local government finance settlement for 2011-12 is announced. At that point, the authorities will have 21 days in which to challenge their proposed 2011-12 caps and raise any specific issues which they feel justify a different capping level. Any challenge will be carefully considered before a final decision is taken on the capping level for 2011-12.

If an authority accepts its proposed cap for 2011-12 without challenge, a notice can be issued to the authority confirming its cap. Otherwise, a draft order will be laid for the approval of the House before any 2011-12 cap can take effect.

Planning

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): The pre-Budget report 2009: "Securing the Recovery: Growth and Opportunity" stated that:

"CLG will undertake by Budget 2010 an end-to-end review of the call-in process, seeking to speed up decision-making".

We have now completed this review and I am today publishing a report of the review and have placed copies in the Library of the House.

All parts of the process were examined to identify where there may be scope to work more efficiently, or to streamline the process. The review makes a number of recommendations and these are summarised below.

Better information:

for Ministers on the implications of calling a case in, and on the value added by call in;

for third parties on the call-in process and policy;

for Government Offices on what cases should be put to Ministers;

for Government Offices on dealing consistently and fairly with third-party requests to call-in; and

on call-in timescales and trends.

More effective working:

between statutory agencies and Government Offices;

between Planning Central Casework and the Planning Inspectorate

(i) to try and avoid issuing decisions subject to obtaining further commitments from the applicant (via "minded to" letters);

(ii) to speed up the process, particularly where there are issues with planning obligations in Planning Central Casework, to ensure that where possible, call-in cases are prioritised.

Better selection:

of the cases which should be called-in; and

of the call-in issues which the inquiry will focus on.

We will also explore the scope for improved use of electronic working at the inquiry stage, and for the Government Offices to work with local planning authorities at an earlier stage to help avoid call-ins. We will also consider how to make the most effective use of inquiry time—for example by providing more flexibility in the way evidence is examined.

Many of the recommendations in the review can be accepted and acted on immediately, with further work to begin on exploring the longer-term recommendations. Overall the review concluded that up to £2 million a year for applicants might be saved by calling in fewer cases, inquiries could be shorter in 40 per cent. of cases (with possible savings of up to £900,000 per year for all parties involved in the inquiry process), and there are further potential time and cost savings identified that might be secured in the future.

A further parliamentary statement will be issued in due course clarifying government policy on call-in, and updating the Caborn statement of 1999.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre (2010-11 Targets)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Shahid Malik): I am today announcing key performance targets have been agreed for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

The agency's principal financial target for 2010-11 is to achieve a minimum dividend payment to the Department for Communities and Local Government equal to the total of 6 per cent. average capital employed and a sum equal to the capital charge that applies to the building for the year concerned. Therefore, the agency's budget for 2010-11 includes a minimum dividend payment of £1,000,000. The agency is a revenue producing business and will also pay to the Department an additional £200,000 (20 per cent.) as its contribution to the Government's operational efficiency programme.

The agency also has the following targets to achieve:

A 65 per cent. occupancy of its rooms based on a theoretical full occupancy revenue of £9.048,000;

Overall score for value for money satisfaction of greater than 90 per cent;

The number of complaints received to be less than two per 100 events; and

An average response time when answering complaints of less than four working days.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Equipment

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): Further to my statement to the House on Monday 22 March, I am pleased to announce the next steps on three projects that will deliver vital equipment and support to the Royal Navy in the coming years and maintain a sovereign maritime industrial sector configured to meet our defence needs efficiently.

We have decided to proceed with the assessment phase for the type 26 Combat Ship, the Royal Navy's next generation surface warship; to sign a terms of business agreement (TOBA) with Babcock Marine covering surface and submarine support activities; and to commit to the initial build and long lead procurement activities for Astute Boats 5 and 6 respectively at BAE Submarine Solutions at Barrow-in-Furness.

The type 26 Combat Ship will provide the backbone of the Royal Navy's future surface combatant force from early in the next decade. We envisage it being optimised for anti-submarine warfare, providing protection to maritime task groups, the strategic deterrent, and land forces in the littoral environment though it will also be able to operate in a wide variety of other roles, able to deploy an embarked military force by boat or helicopter, undertake surveillance and intelligence gathering activities, conduct counter-terrorism and counter-piracy operations, and support disaster relief and humanitarian operations.

The assessment phase will be a £127 million, four-year contract with BAE Systems Surface Ships that will deliver a cost-effective ship specification for development and manufacture. Among other things, it will examine whole life costs, consider the potential for international export, develop tailored logistic support arrangements and produce a full ship specification for consideration prior to the main investment decision. In doing so, this work will protect skills and employment in the warship design sector and maintain a key industrial capability for the UK.

We have delayed proceeding with this work until the recent planning round was completed, and any further significant delay would increase the risk that we would be unable to maintain the maritime industrial workload at a cost-effective level once carrier manufacturing is past its peak. It would also increase the risk of our having to retire the type 22 and 23 Frigates before the type 26 is ready to replace them. However, to ensure that we can incorporate any changes to the design or concept of operations that might result from the strategic defence review (SDR), a mid-programme review point has been included as part of the work.

Secondly, as part of our ongoing efforts to deliver increased value for money and support the continued transformation of the maritime industrial sector, I am pleased to announce that we have signed a 15-year partnering agreement with Babcock Marine. We announced our intention to negotiate a so-called TOBA with Babcock Marine in 2007 following the acquisition of Devonport Management Ltd by Babcock International Group, and it has been under negotiation for many months. This agreement will guarantee Babcock Marine's role as our lead industrial partner for submarine support, maintenance and decommissioning, and our preferred supplier for engineering and other services for surface warships and submarines at Her Majesty's Naval Bases Devonport and Clyde. Babcock Marine will also continue to advise the Ministry of Defence on the initial phases of submarine dismantling options and will play a more active role in Through-Life Capability Management for the Royal Navy's fleet, ensuring maximum availability and value for money in the support of future warships and submarines.

In exchange for this guaranteed scope of work, the agreement will deliver guaranteed savings and benefits to the Department of at least £1.2 billion over 15 years, at outturn prices. These savings will flow from performance improvement and efficiency measures enabled by long-term confidence, and will be embedded in the contracts for goods and services that will be negotiated within the framework of the agreement. I would emphasise that, because the agreement will not guarantee a specified level of work, we can be confident that the choices available in the SDR will not in any way be constrained but by proceeding now we will ensure that we can start delivering the savings envisaged as soon as possible.

The Government have also made a contractual commitment to proceed with the initial build of Astute Boat 5 and long-lead procurement activities associated with Astute Boat 6, at a total cost of over £300 million. This commitment is necessary now to ensure a consistent workload for the UK's submarine building industry. This investment will allow the timely delivery of the Astute class boats, which are the biggest and most advanced attack submarines ever ordered for the Royal Navy. Furthermore, since the same industrial skills, experience and capability are necessary to deliver the successor deterrent submarine programme, this investment will play a part in ensuring a smooth transition from the Astute programme to the successor deterrent.

These decisions demonstrate the Government's commitment to the long-term future of the Royal Navy and the UK's maritime defence industry. They will deliver vital defence capability and sustain a world class, efficient sovereign maritime industry.

I intend to make more announcements in the coming days about new and additional capability for our armed forces and defence contracts for UK industry.

Tornado Service Inquiry

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Bill Rammell): I wish to inform the House today of the findings of the Royal Air Force service inquiry into the crash of the RAF Tornado F3, ZE 982, on 2 July 2009 into a mountainside in Argyll, Scotland. Tragically, both the pilot, Flight Lieutenant Kenneth Thompson, and the navigator, Flight Lieutenant Nigel Morton, were killed. Our deepest sympathies remain with their families and friends.

The purpose of a service inquiry is to establish the circumstances of the loss and to learn lessons from it; it does not seek to apportion blame. The service inquiry was convened on 3 July 2009 and has now presented its findings.

The service inquiry found that Tornado ZE 982 was the lead of a pair of Tornado F3 aircraft flying a routine low level training sortie out of RAF Leuchars on 2 July 2009. From the accident data recorder information available to them, the service inquiry was able to identify the sequence of airborne events and concluded that the cause of the accident was controlled flight into terrain due to insufficient turning room being available within the valley to complete the turn. Effectively, once the aircraft had entered into the final turn it was all but impossible to achieve the turn safely. As a consequence, the aircraft crashed into the north slope of Glen Kinglas, Argyll, 14 minutes after take-off. The second Tornado crew witnessed the crash and took immediate recovery action, in due course returning safely to RAF Leuchars. The service inquiry concluded that the aircraft's flying control systems, engines and structure were serviceable and all critical systems operated correctly during the sortie and that there was no evidence to prove that any equipment issues caused the aircraft's loss.

The inquiry findings serve to demonstrate that military flying is never without risk and that low level flying presents additional challenges.

The service inquiry panel made a total of 26 recommendations largely relating to aircrew training and check and assurance processes. These are being addressed and will be implemented, as appropriate, as soon as is practicable.

A redacted version of the Inquiry findings will be placed in the Library of the House today. It will also be made available on the MOD internet site and can be found by following the link below:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/BoardsOfInquiry/

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

New Nuclear Power Stations (Financing Arrangements)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): My noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change today made the following statement:

I have today issued two consultation documents relating to the arrangements for the financing of nuclear decommissioning and waste handling for new nuclear power stations.

It is the Government's policy that the owners and operators of new nuclear power stations must set aside funds over the generating life of the power station to cover the full costs of decommissioning and their full share of waste management and disposal costs. The two consultations published today represent significant progress in the delivery of that policy.

The first consultation is on "a Methodology to Determine a Fixed Unit Price for Waste Disposal and Updated Cost Estimates for Nuclear Decommissioning, Waste Management and Waste Disposal".

This consultation document sets out:

Changes to the Government's policy framework for setting a fixed unit price as a result of feedback from stakeholders received during the pre-consultation process.

The main stages of the proposed methodology to determine a fixed unit price and worked examples of how it would be calculated using this methodology.

The Government's updated estimates of the costs for decommissioning, waste management and waste disposal of new nuclear power stations.

The second consultation is on "the Financing of Nuclear Decommissioning and Waste Handling Regulations" which proposes to implement regulations that will seek to:

recover the costs associated with the consideration of a Funded Decommissioning Programme (FDP), including the costs of obtaining advice in relation to the FDP or in relation to the information about the FDP;

amend the procedure as set out in the Energy Act 2008 for modifying an approved FDP;

implement reporting requirements;

clarify requirements for the verification of a FDP; and

to define the financing elements of FDP.

This is also a consultation on a draft order to make certain matters associated with a FDP designated technical matters.

We want to hear from members of the public, industry, financial and other institutions that may be involved in the financing of new nuclear power stations, non-governmental organisations and any other organisation or body with an interest.

The consultations will close on Friday 18 June 2010. Copies of the consultations will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Marine Management Organisation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): The new Marine Management Organisation (MMO), established by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, is under a duty to exercise its functions with the overarching objective of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development in the marine area.

The Act requires the Secretary of State to give the MMO guidance on the contribution it is to make to the achievement of sustainable development, and a draft of any such guidance must be laid before Parliament.

A draft of the guidance, which has taken into account the comments of a broad range of organisations, MMO delivery partners, and the MMO board, will be laid today and copies made available in the Vote Office and at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/other/9780108509032/9780108509032.asp

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Conflict Funding (2010-11)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): I, together with my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Defence and the Secretary of State for International Development, wish to inform the House about our plans for conflict funding for the next financial year.

The 2007 comprehensive spending review settlement set the programme resources available for conflict prevention and stabilisation for FY 2010-11 at £229 million (an uplift of £50 million from FY 2009-10), with an additional call on the Treasury Reserve for assessed peacekeeping costs, currently capped at £374 million. Taking into account end-year flexibility arrangements, the UK's total available conflict resource for FY 2010-11 is likely to be £628.5 million. This excludes the net additional costs of military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq where separate arrangements are in place to draw on the Treasury Reserve.

We have agreed that we will earmark £450 million to cover the cost of assessed peacekeeping contributions, allowing us to meet our international legal obligations.

We have increased funding from £171 million in 2009-10 to £178.5 million in 2010-11 for discretionary activity funded through the tri-departmental conflict pool (CP). The conflict pool (CP) will continue to fund discretionary conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacekeeping activity under the existing five programmes: South Asia, Middle East, Africa, Wider Europe and strategic support to international organisations.

The allocation for South Asia will be £84.8 million, which includes an allocation of £82 million for activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan, reflecting the very high priority that we attach to this region. We will continue all conflict-related activity in Afghanistan, particularly in Helmand, where a large proportion of resources is spent on stabilisation programmes. We will increase funding for Pakistan. We are also in a position to maintain activity in Sri Lanka and Nepal.

In Africa, the total allocation will be £42.2 million, which will be used to fund conflict-prevention programmes and discretionary peacekeeping engagements in priority countries such as Sudan, DRC, Kenya and Zimbabwe. We will increase funding for Somalia to reflect its increasing priority. HMG will also maintain its focus on building Africa's capacity to prevent and manage conflict.

In Wider Europe, the total allocation will be £22.2 million. This will allow HMG to continue to fund a UK contribution to UN peacekeeping in Cyprus, conflict prevention work in the Balkans such as rule of law and security sector reform and conflict-prevention work in Georgia and the Commonwealth of Independent States. We will maintain also our commitment to EU and OSCE operations in the Balkans and Caucasus.

In the Middle East, the total allocation will be £13.8 million. Within the allocation of £13.8 million we will increase resources for conflict prevention in Yemen and for programmes supporting the middle east peace process (MEPP). We will also continue to support conflict-prevention programmes in Lebanon and to fund stabilisation activity in Iraq.

The £6.5 million Strategic Support to International Organisations programme, which provides support for international organisations, includes support for security sector reform advisory capacity and for the United Nations Rule of Law Unit, the Peacebuilding Support Office, a Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support package and defence education.

These allocations will allow the conflict pool to retain a reserve of £9 million to act primarily as a buffer against fluctuations in the exchange rate and increases in assessed peacekeeping or other conflict-related costs. The likely cost of the assessed contributions will be kept under review.

We will continue to prioritise within the resources available. We remain committed to maintaining our significant contribution to international peacekeeping, and to funding essential conflict prevention and stabilisation activity in priority regions.

HEALTH

Science and Technology Committee Report on Nanotechnologies and Food (Government Response)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron): We are today laying before Parliament the Government's response (Cm 7857) to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee report on Nanotechnologies and Food, which was published on 8 January 2010.

Nanoscience and nanotechnologies have advanced in recent years to the stage where there are a range of innovative products on the market that contain nanomaterials, ranging from cosmetics to surface coatings for glass. While developments in the food industry are generally at an early stage, applications of nanotechnology in this sector have the potential to bring about benefits to both industry and consumers.

The Science and Technology Committee's inquiry is therefore timely and their report provides a detailed and extremely thorough analysis on a range of issues including support for innovation, research into health and safety implications, regulation and public engagement.

The Government's response welcomes the Committee's report and its recommendations. Some of the issues that have been raised by the Committee are specific to food while others are wider in scope. The Food Standards Agency has therefore liaised closely with other Government Departments—the Departments for Business, Innovation and Skills, and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—in considering the Committee's recommendations and developing the overall response.

In several places the response cross-refers to the Government's UK Nanotechnologies Strategy "Small Technologies, Great Opportunities", which was published on 18 March 2010. The Government's position on nanotechnologies is set out in the strategy as follows:

"The UK's economy and consumers will benefit from the development of nanotechnologies through Government's support of innovation and promotion of the use of these emerging and enabling technologies in a safe, responsible and sustainable way reflecting the needs of the public, industry and academia".

This approach applies equally in the food sector, where the role of public engagement is of particular importance. The Committee rightly highlights the heightened public sensitivities about new food technologies and the value of effective public communication and openness. Therefore, in addition to taking forward the other recommendations in the report, the Food Standards Agency will be working closely with industry, consumer groups and other stakeholders to ensure that the public have accurate and impartial information about the way that nanotechnologies are being applied to food.

Today's publication is in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Government Response to the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic (Independent Review)

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): I am pleased to announce that an independently chaired review of the UK response to the 2009 HINI ("swine flu") pandemic has been established. This review has been jointly commissioned, and the chair appointed, by all four of the UK Health Ministers. The review will be chaired by Dame Deirdre Hine. The review team are situated within the Cabinet Office, which will lead the review with the full co-operation of all the UK Health Departments.

As part of the normal procedure following a major emergency event, the review will consider the effectiveness of the UK response to the 2009 pandemic and make recommendations to inform planning for any future pandemic. We expect the review team to conduct a paper review of all the key elements of the response and to interview key individuals involved. However, it will be for Dame Deirdre to determine precisely how she wishes to proceed.

The chair will start work as soon as possible. In order that the review can inform future pandemic planning and to ensure that its findings are placed in the public domain as soon as possible, Ministers have asked that the review complete its work in time to publish a report before the summer parliamentary recess (in any of the four nations of the UK).

I would like to take this opportunity to express the Government's thanks to all of those who have assisted and advised on the response to the swine flu pandemic.

NHS Prescription/Dental Charges and Optical Vouchers

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien): I am announcing a freeze in prescription charges for 2010-11. The prescription charge will remain unchanged at £7.20 for each quantity of a drug or appliance dispensed. The cost of a prescription prepayment certificate (PPC) will remain at £104.00 for an annual certificate. PPCs offer savings to those who need frequent prescriptions throughout the year. The cost of the three-month PPC, which is useful for those with a shorter-term need for prescription items, will remain at £28.25.

Alongside this, I am confirming that we will not be introducing any changes to the age-exemption criteria for free prescriptions in April 2010. We are considering how best to implement changes to the age at which people qualify for free prescriptions, in line with the changes to state pension age for women.

NHS dental charges will also be frozen at their current rates for the 12 months beginning 1 April 2010. The dental charge payable for a band 1 course of treatment will remain at £16.50, and the charge for a band 2 course of treatment will remain at £45.60. The charge for a band 3 course of treatment will remain, for a third year, at £198.

Charges for elastic stockings and tights, wigs and fabric supports supplied through hospitals will also remain unchanged.

The range of NHS optical vouchers available to children, people on low incomes and individuals with complex sight problems to help with the purchase of glasses also remain unchanged in 2010-11.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Hillsborough Independent Panel

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): On 15 December 2009 I announced the establishment of the Hillsborough Independent Panel and the appointment of the Right Reverend James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool as the panel's chairman. The appointment of seven panel members was announced in my written statement of 26 January 2010.

In view of the range of skills needed and the hundreds of thousands of documents within the panel's scope, my announcement on 26 January referred to the likelihood of further appointments, including the appointment to the panel of a suitably experienced lawyer. I can now confirm that Raju Bhatt, a founder and partner of Bhatt Murphy Solicitors and one of the founding members of Inquest Lawyers Group, has been appointed as a member of the Hillsborough Independent Panel.

This announcement completes the process of appointments to the panel, each of which is for a period of two years.

I am confident that the panel members have the skills and experience they need to be successful in the challenging tasks the panel faces, and that it will continue to act with independence, rigour, and sensitivity. The panel will, itself, consider the range of professional expertise it may wish to call upon in due course.

Intercept as Evidence

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): My written ministerial statement of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 31WS reported the conclusions of the work programme set in train following the Privy Council review of January 2008, to implement the use of intercept as evidence, consistent with protecting the public and national security. This concluded that the "PII Plus" model of IAE, recommended for further work by the Privy Council review, would not be legally viable, and would worsen rather than enhance our ability to bring the guilty to justice. The Advisory Group of Privy Counsellors (the right hon. Sir John Chilcot, the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Sir Alan Beith), the right hon. and learned Member for Folkestone and Hythe (Mr. Howard), and my noble Friend the right hon. Lord Archer of Sandwell) established to advise on the work programme, agreed with this conclusion.

My written ministerial statement confirmed the Government's commitment to report back on further scoping analysis, intended to establish whether the problems identified were capable of being resolved, prior to the Easter recess. The areas to be examined were:

Further enhancing the judicial oversight available.

Full retention of intercept material alongside alternative review requirements.

Advances in technology which might make full retention and review more manageable.

I am having placed in the House Libraries copies of a progress report to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on behalf of the Advisory Group.

The findings underline the complexity and difficulty of the issues raised. None of the approaches examined successfully reconcile the requirements for trials to remain fair with those necessary to protect operational capabilities. In some cases the problems are such that further work is not justified. In some others the position may be less categorical. Reflecting this, the Advisory Group has suggested further, more focused work building on that undertaken previously and intended to establish whether the remaining approaches could be implemented in way that is operationally sustainable and affordable. The Government agree that this would be useful.

I should like to express my thanks to the Advisory Group for their continued contribution to this programme of work.

Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (Lord Carlile's Fifth Annual Report) and Joint Committee on Human Rights Report

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): In accordance with section 14(3), 14(4) and 14(5) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, Lord Carlile of Berriew QC prepared a report on the operation of the Act in 2009, which I laid before the House on 1 February 2010.

I am grateful to Lord Carlile for another considered review. Following consultation within my department and with other relevant agencies, I am today laying before the House my response to Lord Carlile's recommendations.

I am also laying before the House my response to the report on the renewal of the control order legislation by the Joint Committee on Human Rights (published on 26 February 2010).

Copies of the Government responses will be available in the Vote Office and a copy of each will also be placed on the Home Office website.

JUSTICE

Employment Tribunal Awards and ACAS Settlements

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): Today, I am announcing measures that build upon the current provisions for enforcement of awards from employment tribunals in the courts.

The High Court Enforcement Officers Association has agreed that a number of its members will take part in a scheme, to be known as Employment Tribunal Fast Track, that will assist successful claimant enforce their employment tribunal awards anywhere in England and Wales.

With effect from the 6 April 2010 the fast track scheme will allow a High Court enforcement officer to be assigned to their case as soon as the respondent fails to pay the award as ordered. The officer will thereafter progress the case through the court processes and onward to execution of a High Court Writ issued against the respondent's goods.

All the costs of the fast track scheme will be recoverable from the respondent with a small fixed cost liability for the claimant if the award is not recovered.

The award will continue to be registered on the Register of Judgments, Orders and Fines, which if left unpaid, could have a detrimental effect upon the credit status of the respondent.

It is our intention to now consider if the fast track scheme can be extended to include recipients of ACAS settlements orders so they too can benefit from the services the High Court enforcement officer.

The Government are determined to ensure that individuals who are entitled to their employment tribunal awards are not denied access to justice by a small minority of unscrupulous individuals or companies who refuse to respect the award. These changes will ensure that all recipients can pursue the payment of their award with ease.

Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (Post-legislative Scrutiny)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I am today laying before the House the Government's memorandum to the Justice Committee on post-legislative scrutiny of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Constitutional Reform Act 2005 introduced wide-ranging constitutional reform to the Executive, legislature and judiciary. This reform has been implemented, in line with the stated objectives of the Act, as detailed in the memorandum. The full impact on our constitutional settlement of these major reforms is only likely to be felt years from now, as the institutions and relationships it created continue to mature.

Second Victims Advisory Panel: March 2010

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Claire Ward): I have laid before Parliament an end of tenure report for the Second Victims Advisory Panel that met between July 2006 and July 2009.

The report gives details of the panel's work across the period and sets out recommendations they have made. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the panel for their hard work.

Youth Justice Board Review

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): My right hon. Friend the Member for Normanton (Ed Balls) and I welcome the report published today, "Safeguarding the Future: A Review of the Youth Justice Board's Governance and Operating Arrangements" (the YJB Review). This highlights the significant improvements in youth justice since 1998, as well as making important recommendations for the future. We are grateful to Dame Sue Street and Frances Done for their thoughtful and thorough analysis.

The creation of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and pioneering multi-agency youth offending teams through the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 is described by the YJB Review as "amongst the most significant [reforms] ever made to the criminal justice system". The 1998 Act brought co-ordination and consistency to the previously ineffective and disparate system that was so heavily criticised by the 1996 Audit Commission report, "Misspent Youth". Crucially, for the first time it put in place a distinct, formal structure for dealing with young offenders.

Now, instead of pulling in different directions, the police, social services, schools and local authorities are working closely together to protect the public through prevention and where that fails, punishment and reform. One key focus is on tackling problems before they are allowed to take root, challenging bad behaviour before it escalates.

At the same time, there are also serious consequences for those who do offend. Custody must remain an option open to sentencers for serious and persistent offenders or those who fail to respond to other interventions. We have also expanded the range of community punishments to hold young offenders to account where appropriate and to make them give redress to the communities they have wronged.

All this work is underpinned by the £100 million youth crime action plan, which has already impacted on more than 300,000 young people, as well as a new sentencing framework, the "Youth Rehabilitation Order", which combines rigorous punishment with interventions to help young offenders to reform.

The evidence suggests that this approach is having an effect: the number of young people entering the criminal justice system has fallen by over 12 per cent. between 2000-01 and 2008-09; the frequency rate of reoffending has fallen by nearly a quarter between 2000-2008; and, the number of young people sentenced to immediate custody has also fallen significantly over this period.

This progress is encouraging. The Youth Justice Board has played an important part, for which it deserves credit. However, we want to achieve a further step change: fewer victims, less reoffending, the best outcomes delivered across the country. That is why we commissioned a review of the Youth Justice Board in September 2009, and why we accept the review's message that the YJB needs to achieve a stronger grip on performance, provide clearer direction, and give the best value for public money. The current leadership have shown themselves to be ready to rise to this challenge. We accept the review's recommendation that the board should build on its strengths and reinvigorate its role.

As today's report highlights, protecting the public must be clearly recognised as the first priority within an integrated approach that improves outcomes for young people. This is central to our approach to justice. We accept the recommendation that the YJB should further emphasise and publicise its role in protecting the public from youth crime.

The review makes clear the importance of strong partnership working between the YJB and central Government and makes a number of important recommendations to strengthen this further. We will seek to implement these immediately, building on the successful work through the youth crime action plan. We agree that the Home Office should have greater involvement in that partnership working with the YJB and its sponsoring departments.

We will now develop proposals for putting into practice all the review's recommendations. We will examine how

to achieve the Youth Justice Board's purpose and objectives with the best value for money for the tax-paying public and publish a detailed response in the summer.

We will build on our success in preventing crime and reducing reoffending. The Youth Justice Board will continue to ensure there are sufficient places in secure accommodation for the most serious, persistent young offenders. And where there are weaknesses in performance, the board will focus considerable attention on monitoring and raising standards in local areas, on holding local authorities and providers of youth justice services to account, and on spreading best practice across the country. The review makes clear that there is more to do in this respect. We accept that and will immediately work with the YJB to ensure it happens. The board will be strengthened in its role through provisions in the Children, Schools and Families Bill which give the Government the power to intervene directly in poorly performing youth offending teams.

The best partnership working should be shared and built upon across the country. No one should be left in any doubt about the importance attached to protecting people from becoming victims of crime and in holding the perpetrators to account.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Reform of the House of Commons

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): Following a general debate on 22 February, the House resolved 11 motions without a vote giving effect to many recommendations in the First Report of the House of Commons Reform Committee, Session 2008-09, "Rebuilding the House" (HC 1117). On 4 March 2010 after a further debate on outstanding issues, further motions were approved. In the words of the Committee, "significant and welcome steps have now been taken on the path to reform."

In order to give effect to these resolutions, I have tabled motions which appear in today's order paper to create and amend Standing Orders to give effect to the recommendations relating to the establishment of a Back-Bench business committee, namely to set the process for election and procedural conduct of the committee, to allocate time for Back-Bench proceedings and to define Back-Bench business.

The Reform Committee has proposed its own motion following the decisions of the House on 4 March. The Reform Committees motion differs from the decisions of the House in the following ways:

Election of Back-Bench business committee members—The Standing Order proposed by the Committee provides for this to be by single transferable vote. No voting system was agreed to by resolution of the House. The Government's Standing Order provides a method analogous to that agreed by the House for other Select Committees, allowing for a balance of parties and to guarantee some representation of women and men.

Adoption of the agenda—The Standing Order proposed by the Committee provides for the Back-Bench business committee's report to be agreed to by the House on a Question put forthwith. This was not agreed to by resolution of the House. The Government's Standing Order provides for the Back-Bench business committee to schedule business directly within the time allocated to it (as the Opposition does on Opposition days).

Number of allotted days—The Standing Order proposed by the Committee provides for thirty-five days or its equivalent to be allotted in each session for proceedings in the House on Back-Bench business. The Government's Standing Order provides for one day a week or its equivalent, which reflects the specific wording of the recommendation (30) of "Rebuilding the House" to which the resolution agreed by the House referred.

Topical Debates—The Standing Order proposed by the Committee would remove current limits on speaking time for Front-Bench spokespeople. This was not agreed to by resolution of the House. We would seek to retain them but to remove the requirement for a Minister to open the debate so that a Back-Bencher can do so.

Westminster Hall —The Committee proposes that Thursday sittings in Westminster Hall should be available to the Back-Bench business committee, subject to 20 days being at the disposal of the Liaison Committee. The scheduling of business in Westminster Hall is currently a matter for the Chairman of Ways and Means, not the Government. As the Committee's proposal was not specifically agreed by resolution of the House, the Government motion maintains the status quo for business off the floor of the House.

Private Members' Bills—The Committee Standing Order would allow the Back-Bench business committee to programme Private Members' Bills. This was not agreed to by resolution of the House. This provision is therefore not included in the Government's Motion.

Because these changes to Standing Orders do no more than give effect to the changes the House has agreed by resolution, I recommend the House to agree them without further debate.

PRIME MINISTER

House of Lords Appointments Commission Annual Report

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have placed today the House of Lords Appointments Commission Annual Report October 2008-March 2010 in the Libraries of both Houses. I am grateful to the members of the commission for the report and their valuable work during the period.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Core Quality Standards

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

The Director of Public Prosecutions has issued today the first set of core quality standards for the Crown Prosecution Service, which now incorporates the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office.

The "Core Quality Standards" set out in plain language the key requirements for a successful prosecution and I welcome their publication. They inform members of the public of the level of

service they can expect from those who prosecute on their behalf. Likewise, they inform CPS staff of what is expected of them and how they will be held to account for the quality of the service provided.

The standards outline, broadly in chronological order, the level of service that the public, and other criminal justice stakeholders can expect at each stage of the process: from early advice to investigators at the outset of a case; through to the appeals process; and how the service will respond to complaints or feedback which might follow at the conclusion of a case.

The Core Quality Standards will be an important tool for improving the quality of service delivered to the public. Performance against the standards will be monitored and reported to the public at the end of each financial year.

To ensure that the standards are widely accessible, they will be published in the most commonly spoken languages in our communities as well as in English, Welsh, audio and Braille.

Copies of the "Core Quality Standards" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and are also available on the Crown Prosecution Service website at: www.cps.gov.uk.

TRANSPORT

Transport for London Independent Advisory Panel

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

I informed the House last year, *Official Report* 29 October 2009 c. 28WS-29WS, that an independent advisory panel would be set up to scrutinise the Transport for London (TfL) investment programme.

Yesterday, 24 March 2010, the Mayor announced the appointments of the first six members of the panel from a shortlist agreed with me. TfL have informed me that they expect the panel, now known as the Investment Programme Advisory Group (IPAG), to be up and running by May 2010. Further details can be found on the TfL website:

http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/media/newscentre/15095.aspx

The IPAG will provide additional reassurance to the Mayor, and to tax payers and fare payers, that the TfL investment programme is being delivered economically and efficiently.

Greater London Authority Transport Grant (2010-11)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

Following consultation with the Mayor of London, I have today determined the Greater London Authority Transport Grant for 2010-11 at £2,871,589,000.

This is a block resource grant provided by the Government to Transport for London to support and improve transport services in London, including London Underground.

Highways Agency Business Plan (2010-11)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): The Highways Agency's business plan for 2010-11 has been published today. It sets out the Agency's budgets for the financial year and how that funding will be spent. The plan contains twelve key performance targets against which the Agency's performance will be measured. These are set out in the table below:

Key Performance Deliverables	*Business Plan Targets for 2010-11*
Reliability: Implement a programme of delivery actions that tackle unreliable journeys on the strategic road network	*Reliability*: The HA will deliver the 2010-11 components and impacts of the Reliability Delivery Plan as agreed by the Secretary of State
Major Projects: Deliver to time and budget the programme of major schemes on the strategic road network.	*Major Project* —For the programme of national schemes in the construction phase, maintain a programme level of 1.0* against the cost performance index (CPI) and the schedule performance index (SPI). * (a programme-level variance of +0.1 or -0.05 against the CPI and the SPI would mean that the target would be deemed to be met)
	Major Projects—For the programme of regional schemes in the construction phase, maintain a programme level of 1.0* against the cost performance index (CPI) and the schedule performance index (SPI). * (a programme-level variance of +0.1 or -0.05 against the CPI and the SPI would mean that the target would be deemed to be met)
	Major Projects—For the programme of national schemes in the development phase, achieve a milestone achievement index of 1.0
Safety: Deliver the Highways Agency's agreed proportion of the national road casualty reduction target.	*Road Safety*: By the end of 2010 reduce by a third (i.e. to 2244*) the number of people killed or seriously injured on the core network compared with the 1994-98 average of 3366. * To allow for expected year-on-year fluctuations in casualty levels, the HA will be deemed to have met the target if the reduction achieved is no more than 5 per cent. above the milestone target figures.
Maintenance: Maintain the strategic road network in a safe and reliable condition, and deliver value for money.	*Maintenance (Condition Index)*: Maintain a road-surface condition index of 100 ±1 within the renewal of roads budget
	Maintenance (Cost & Efficiency): Deliver selected maintenance renewals* costs at an average level below inflation by the end of 2010-11 when compared with 2009-10 * Excluding technology maintenance
Carbon: Contribute to national and international goals for a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by lowering the Highways Agency's emissions	*Carbon*: By the end of 2010-11, achieve a 3 per cent. reduction in our carbon* emissions from our direct energy and fuel usage, our network energy, and our business travel, when compared with 2008-09, in line with the UK carbon reduction target. * Carbon Dioxide (CO2) equivalent

Key Performance Deliverables	*Business Plan Targets for 2010-11*
Environment: Improve quality of life for transport users and non-transport users, and promote a healthy natural environment	*Environment*: Deliver the following in-year actions contained in the 2010-11 Environmental Action Plan: *i. Air Quality*: To complete studies examining a representative selection of air quality exceedences on the strategic road network, and to develop options for mitigating these problems. *ii. Noise*: Review and validation of First Priority Locations as shown in the DEFRA Noise Action Plans enabling the development of prioritised improvement actions for 2011-12 and beyond. *iii. Water Environment*: Deliver six effective interventions at priority outfalls, priority soakaways and flooding hotspots and culverts. *iv. Nature Conservation*: Deliver 10 interventions to support protected species and enhance habitats in accordance with the HA Biodiversity Action Plan.
Customer Satisfaction: Deliver a high level of road user satisfaction	*Customer Satisfaction*: Improve road user satisfaction by at least 0.2 percentage points compared with the level achieved in 2009-10. Develop and agree a new customer satisfaction measure and target to be implemented for 2011-12.
Efficiency: Deliver the Highways Agency's contribution to the Department for Transport's efficiency target	*Efficiency (Programme)*: Deliver cumulative efficiency improvements of £144 million by the end of 2010-11.
	Efficiency (Administration): Deliver our programme within the allocated administration budget over the CSR07 period, which requires cumulative efficiency savings of 17.2 per cent. in real terms by the end of 2010-11

Copies of the business plan have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Kickstart Bus Fund

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): In January 2009, my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) the then Secretary of State for Transport announced the launch of a second round of Kickstart bus funding. I am pleased to announce today the provisional successful bidders from the competition. A list of these has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The scheme was launched with funding of £25 million, this has been revised to £15 million. The successful bids represent the best possible value for money for the Department. I have written today to the provisional successful bidders, asking them to confirm their interest in the scheme.

Kickstart is targeted at schemes which have the potential to become successful but which initially might be more marginal in commercial terms and require some financial help to start them off, or which are currently marginal schemes that with some extra support could be made more successful.

Through Kickstart, we are looking to pump-prime bus services which will contribute to the Department's overall objectives of increasing bus patronage, and in particular developing bus services as an alternative to car use, bringing with it a reduction in congestion and benefits to the environment. It will also contribute to objectives on improving accessibility and social inclusion. This round focused on schemes which make use of the new bus powers in the Local Transport Act 2008. We hope this will allow us to build up good practice on the use of these powers to promulgate to other local authorities and operators.

UK Driving Licences (Migrants)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I am making this statement with my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration, the member for Oldham East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas), as part of a joint programme of work between the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and the United Kingdom Border Agency under the auspices of the immigration enforcement strategy "Enforcing the Deal".

We are today announcing an administrative change, under the existing legal framework, in the way DVLA considers applications for UK driving licences from non-EEA nationals. There is already strong operational co-operation between DVLA and the UK Border Agency to prevent identity and immigration fraud by foreign nationals. The Government's strategic objective is to move to a position where possession of an identity card for foreign nationals issued under the UK Borders Act 2007 becomes a qualifying criteria for non-EEA nationals wishing to obtain a UK driving licence.

As a preliminary measure, I am informing the House that from today those applying for a provisional as well as full driving licence will have to demonstrate that they are lawfully resident in the UK, not simply lawfully present, in order to qualify for a driving licence. Those who are present in the UK on temporary permission or temporary release under the Immigration Act 1971 will not be considered eligible for a driving licence. Those granted leave to enter or remain in the UK for at least 185 days will continue to be able to apply for a licence while their leave is extant, provided they otherwise qualify.

It is right that those whose status remains undecided and those without leave should not be seeking to establish the benefits of ordinary settled life in the UK, including access to driving licences. Transitional provisions will apply to those with an outstanding licence application at DVLA.

WORK AND PENSIONS

National Employment Savings Trust Corporation

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): I am pleased to announce the appointment of further members of the NEST corporation.

Ms Jeannie Drake is appointed as deputy chair of the NEST corporation. Her appointment will take effect from 1st April 2010, initially as deputy chair designate until the NEST corporation is established on 5 July, at which point Ms Drake will take on the full duties of deputy chair. Ms Drake is currently acting chair of the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority (PAD A) and will retain this role until PADA is wound-up on 5 July 2010.

Ms Drake brings a deep knowledge of the objectives of NEST and the wider agenda for pensions. As deputy chair, Ms Drake will provide an excellent continuity of knowledge and will be able to make an immediate contribution to the running of NEST.

I am also pleased to announce the appointment of the following members of the NEST corporation:

Mr. Tom Boardman

Mr. Laurie Edmans

Dr. Dianne Hayter

Mr Chris Hitchen

Mr. Julius Pursaill

Ms Sue Slipman

Their appointments will be as members designate from 1 April 2010 until the NEST corporation is established on 5 July. These individuals will bring a breadth of knowledge and expertise to the NEST corporation.

The NEST corporation will be a non-departmental public body, responsible for launching and running NEST, a new low-cost pension scheme for moderate to low earners who are not currently served by the private sector. NEST will ensure all employers have access to a suitable pension arrangement in order to fulfil their forthcoming duties under the Pensions Act 2008.

In the long-term, we expect NEST to have between 3 million and 6 million members, and hundreds of thousands of participating employers. Developing and delivering a scheme of this scale is a significant challenge, and these appointments demonstrate the ongoing Government commitment to ensuring NEST succeeds.

NEST will be established when the National Employment Savings Trust Order 2010 comes into effect on 5 July. The order will be supplemented by the NEST rules, both of which will be published today. Together, the order and rules set out the scope and parameters for the operation of NEST. An explanatory note will be published with the rules, to set out the changes following consultation in April 2009.

Copies of the rules and the explanatory note will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The order will be published and made available through the OPSI website: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi_20100917_en_1

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 29 March 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Intellectual Property Office (Performance Targets 2010-11)

The Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property (Mr. David Lammy): I have tasked the Intellectual Property Office with managing and shaping an intellectual property system which encourages innovation and creativity, balances the needs of rights holders and the public, provides support to businesses on managing and exploiting their intellectual property, and stimulates economic growth.

I have set the Intellectual Property Office the following targets for 2010-11:

Be able by March 2011 to quantify the level of IP rights and estimate IP's impact on the knowledge economy.

Demonstrable improvement in stakeholder perceptions of the impact of our international policy engagement compared with 2009-10 results.

Review by March 2011 the UK's system of moral rights, by comparison with our international partners and by conducting an appraisal of any impact on our economic and cultural environment.

Issue 80 per cent. of patent search reports within four months of request.

Give good customer service in processing patent applications in 95 per cent. of quality assured cases.

Clear all outstanding patent examinations older than 49 months by March 2011.

Register 85 per cent. of correctly filed applications for trade marks, where no opposition has been filed, within four months, 90 per cent. within five months and 95 per cent. within six months.

Make the correct decision on registration on at least 99 per cent. of trade mark applications.

Register 95 per cent. of correctly filed design applications within one month.

Our business outreach enables 80 per cent. of its recipients to improve the IP performance of their business or the businesses they advise.

Achieve a return on capital employed of 4 per cent.

Post Office

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Pat McFadden): The Post Office is one of this country's oldest institutions, but the Government believe it still has a vital role to play in today's society, and in the future.

In December 2009, the Government published a consultation on Post Office banking, setting out its vision for banking at the Post Office based around four values: universal; accessible; trusted and sustainable. The scale of the response showed a clear desire for the Post Office to do more.

The Government response to the consultation, which is being published today, sets out the expanded role we want the Post Office to play:

Making affordable credit more readily available by working closely with credit unions.

Increasing financial inclusion, by providing local access to more high street bank accounts.

Giving children their own account to allow them to save at their local post office.

Providing a way for people to manage their household bills, with a new account that will allow those on low incomes to take better advantage of direct debit rates for energy and water bills.

The document also sets out new measures on mortgages, access to business banking, and a Post Office current account which would be available in all of its 11,500 branches. These new products will add to the wide range of banking products and services already on offer at the Post Office—credit cards, insurance, loans, foreign currency, and savings.

The measures the Government are taking mark a step change in banking at the Post Office. They also demonstrate the Government's ongoing commitment to the Post Office network. A commitment the Government are backing up with £180 million of new Government funding for the network for 2011-12, beyond the £1.7 billion that is already being invested from 2007 to 2011.

Copies of the Government's response to the consultation will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses. The consultation document will also be accessible online on the Department's website.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service (Management Functions) Act 1992 (Delegations/Authorisations)

The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith): During 2009, delegations were made to the Department for Energy and Climate Change and to the head of the home civil service.

Delegations/authorisations are made subject to the condition that recipients comply with the provisions of the "Civil Service Management Code" as amended from time to time. Copies of the "Civil Service Management Code" are available in the Library of the House and electronically at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/csmc/index.aspx.

TREASURY

Tax Information Exchange - Belize

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): A tax information exchange agreement (TIEA) was signed with Belize in London on 25 March 2010.

The text of the TIEA has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

2008 Credit Guarantee Scheme (Contingent Liability)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): The credit guarantee scheme (CGS) was introduced as part of a package of measures to support the stability of the banking system and to protect savers and depositors. The scheme makes available, to eligible institutions, a Government guarantee of new short and medium-term debt issuance of up to three years' maturity.

As announced at the pre-Budget report in 2009, the CGS closed for new issuance on 28 February 2010. In consequence, the maximum amount currently outstanding represents the maximum contingent liability under scheme rules. On 24 March 2010 issuance stood at £125 billion. HM Treasury is therefore notifying a revision to the contingent liability to the maximum currently outstanding to reflect this and in addition is publishing a short report providing details of scheme use on 29 March 2010 on the Debt Management Office's website.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

"Safer Children in a Digital World" (Progress Review)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I am writing today to Professor Tanya Byron in response to her review of the progress made on improving children's digital safety since the publication of her 2008 review, "Safer Children in a Digital World".

The pace of technological change since Professor Byron's 2008 review has been rapid. In recognition of this, in December 2009 I asked Professor Byron to review progress in keeping children safe when using new technology and report to the Government by the end of March. I am grateful to Professor Byron for the inclusive, consultative approach which she has taken—including meeting hon. Members—and for her thoughtful analysis and conclusions which are, as ever, balanced, insightful and informed throughout by the voices and interests of children, young people and families.

Professor Byron's report celebrates the world-leading precedent which has been set by the establishment of a UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) and the important advances that have been made, particularly around raising public awareness of how to keep children safe online and teaching children how to stay safe through improved digital safety education. As we move forward, Professor Byron is clear that the priority must be to deliver, without delay, what was set out in the UKCCIS strategy last December. She also makes recommendations on how we should respond to the developments that have taken place since her 2008 review alongside a set of helpful recommendations to improve the workings of UKCCIS.

I welcome Professor Byron's report and, because UKCCIS was founded on the principle of shared responsibility, I agree with her recommendation that the UKCCIS executive board should decide on the best way to address her recommendations. The Home Secretary and I are therefore writing today to the UKCCIS executive board asking them to consider the report and agree a response covering all of the recommendations by 31 July 2010.

I have placed copies of Professor Byron's report, my letter responding to her and the letter to the UKCCIS executive board in the Libraries of both Houses. They are also available online at www.dcsf.gov.uk/byronreview.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Seaside Economies

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham): The "Strategy for Seaside Success: securing the future of seaside economies" was launched on Thursday 25 March.

The aim of the strategy is to help ensure our seaside towns have the help they need to build on their heritage and take advantage of the new opportunities to develop strong economies and communities for the future. While many seaside towns have had to confront particular economic challenges in recent years, seaside towns have unique histories and retain a special place in the development of modern Britain.

A renewed interest in these places, coupled with new possibilities to develop and use low-carbon economies and tap into the global digital economy, provides an excellent opportunity for seaside towns to become great places to live, work and visit.

This strategy builds on support the Government have given to seaside towns since 1997 through a range of mainstream policies, together with targeted support to some of the most deprived seaside authorities.

We have given councils more powers to tackle their own problems locally, through devolution, while the regional development agencies have given seaside towns significant support to promote economic development. The Northwest Development Agency has invested over £200 million in its seaside towns, and over £86 million has been invested in coastal areas by the East of England Development Agency.

The Government's Sea Change initiative has put £38 million into improving seaside town infrastructure in 32 seaside areas since 2008. The Heritage Lottery Fund has provided over £234 million to 864 projects in English seaside reports to support their regeneration. Over £99 million has been targeted on 21 of the most deprived seaside resorts through the Working Neighbourhoods Fund and New Deal For Communities.

The new cross-Government strategy is directed at key areas where action is most needed. The package of support it outlines includes:

A new £5 million seaside towns grant fund to help the 25 most deprived seaside local authorities tackle long-term worklessness and drive regeneration;

A pledge to extend the Sea Change programme to help improve seaside town infrastructure after 2011;

The Heritage Lottery Fund to look at how more support can be given to iconic piers which are a unique part of many seaside towns historic infrastructure;

New licensing rules for councils over houses in multiple occupation will help tackle problems around poor quality seaside housing, and we will look at what else is needed to prevent unsuitable landlords getting holiday caravan site licences;

Support for a "Seasiding" campaign with festivals to attract cultural investors and strengthen non-seasonal economies to help them become year-round visitor destinations;

Exploring options to exploit new opportunities on the coast to benefit seaside town economies, including taking advantage of their natural advantages and location to be at the forefront of the shift to a low-carbon economy. New UK offshore wind licences could be worth £75 billion and create 70,000 new jobs by 2020, many of which could be in coastal areas.

Ensuring that communities across the UK, including seaside towns, benefit from the Government's commitment to extend new digital networks, including super-fast broadband, across the country.

Regional development agencies and tourism boards to give maximum promotion to seaside towns in their region.

Learning from the neighbourhood policing pilots in seaside and other areas on how to deal effectively with antisocial behaviour and crime in seaside towns.

A focus on stronger co-operation across Government to improve regeneration outcomes in seaside towns, including Regional Ministers as seaside champions, and improved delivery of online personalised public services in seaside towns.

Seaside towns face complex economic and social issues so this strategy will evolve. It will help to ensure all our seaside towns to reach the standards of the best and become year-round economies that flourish and grow in the 21st century.

I have placed copies of the strategy in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Equipment

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): Further to my statements to the House on 22 and 25 March, *Official Report*, columns 3WS and 54WS, I am pleased to announce the next steps on a number of projects that will deliver vital equipment and support, particularly to the Royal Air Force (RAF), and will help sustain the aerospace and weapons sectors of the UK's defence industry. These announcements build on the package of adjustments to the defence programme I announced to the House on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 801 and the emerging thinking on defence as set out in the Green Paper that leads in to the strategic defence review (SDR).

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has entered into an interim partnering agreement with MBDA (UK) Ltd to take forward the Government's strategy for the UK's complex weapons sector as originally set out in the defence industrial strategy. The agreement builds on the successful team complex weapons assessment phase that commenced in July 2008. As part of the agreement, the MOD has placed a contract valued at some £330 million to demonstrate and manufacture both the fire shadow loitering munition which will be able to be used in operations by the British Army in Afghanistan and, using a development of the current Brimstone anti-armour weapon, the second element of the selective precision effects at range (SPEAR) programme for use by the RAF on Harrier GR9 and Tornado GR4 including on current operations. The contract also includes further work on the future local area air defence system and on future components of the SPEAR programme.

This partnered approach is designed to meet the armed forces' requirements through a modular family of weapons, with the agreement providing greater overall flexibility to meet evolving requirements, permitting shorter development times, and achieving significant efficiencies through life. It will also ensure the UK has continued access to industrial skills and capabilities that are critical for the ongoing provision of cutting edge complex weapons for our armed forces. The agreement represents a further significant investment in the United Kingdom's high technology industry and its wider supply chain, and helps to sustain the UK's key complex weapons skills base.

I am also pleased to announce that this week we will sign a £120 million contract with BAE Systems for the in-service support of the Hawk T Mk2 (the advanced jet trainer), which will provide a modern fast jet training capability for the RAF. This contracted logistic support arrangement will see BAE Systems responsible not only for the number of aircraft made available for training flights but also for ensuring that the aircraft are able to carry out the training mission effectively, and covers all aspects of support including on base maintenance, fleet management, spares management and re-provisioning, repair and all other ancillary activities needed to provide the required aircraft availability out to 31 March 2014. This contract is sufficiently flexible to continue to deliver value for money for defence should the strategic defence review identify changes in the fast jet training requirement. Altogether the contract will sustain over a 100 jobs at BAE Systems and its subcontractors, Babcock Defence Division and Rolls Royce (all at RAF Valley in Anglesey).

We are making excellent progress towards delivery of the 22 new Chinook I announced in December. The decision to buy more Chinooks is a reflection of operational experience over the past 20 years, especially more recently in Afghanistan where the aircraft has proven its value to commanders time and again. I am pleased to inform the House that a contract was signed with Boeing on 23 March, just three months after my announcement, for initial design and long-lead manufacture work, which will protect the critical path to delivery of the first 10 aircraft in 2012 and 2013. This demonstrates our commitment to delivering more capability to the front line as quickly as possible.

It has been well publicised that the A400M transport aircraft, which will provide airlift support to operations, is proving to be a challenging programme, principally due to the technical complexity of this next generation military transport aircraft. Since 2008, MOD officials have worked tirelessly with the other partner nations, the Organisation for Joint Armaments Co-operation, and EADS/Airbus Military to find the best way forward for the UK. This process has involved difficult negotiations but I am pleased to announce today that the partner nations have reached an agreement with EADS/Airbus Military on a non-legally binding heads of terms agreement

that will provide the basis for a formal contract amendment in the coming months. The in service date is now expected to be 2015, and it is our intention to see the A400M programme through to completion.

It was very clear from negotiations that the programme would only remain viable with further investment from the partner nations. The UK contribution to this further investment will be achieved by reducing the number of aircraft to be delivered to the RAF so that we remain within our existing cost envelope. We expect that the cost increases, which for the UK represents a maximum reduction of three aircraft from the originally contracted number of 25, may be recovered in the long-term through a levy on foreign export sales of the A400M.

I acknowledge that there have been significant programme delays, reflecting the complex technical challenges of this international project, and we may not receive the number of aircraft for which we originally contracted. Nevertheless, we will deliver the capability required and are greatly encouraged that a prototype A400M aircraft has now flown, with flight trials continuing. This, coupled with recent changes in governance structures that have led to greater transparency, means that the MOD has grounds for greater confidence in the A400M programme. The proposed way forward has been subject to rigorous internal scrutiny, and I am satisfied that the proposed heads of terms agreement is underpinned by a sound evidential base.

As a result, I am confident that the A400M will remain value for money for the taxpayer, and will still deliver an outstanding capability for the RAF. The A400M programme will also sustain up to 8,000 British jobs, including cutting-edge wing design work.

As a result of the measures I announced to the House in December, and despite the delay to the A400M programme, we expect to be able to meet the airlift requirements for current operations after the C130K goes out of service in 2012. We are bolstering our strategic lift capability by the procurement of a seventh C-17, which will enter service with the RAF in March 2011. We are also maximising tactical airlift capability by investing in a package of enhancement measures to maximise the use of the existing fleet of 24 Hercules C-130J. The completion of a second runway at Bastion, Helmand, in 2010 will also allow us to reduce tactical airlift tasking in theatre. Through these investments, the Department believes it can sustain anticipated intra-theatre airlift tasking on current operations until A400M comes into service.

Finally, on 30 November 2009, the Minister responsible for defence equipment and support, announced the beginning of formal trade unions' consultation on the future of defence support group's (DSG) Large Aircraft Business Unit (LABU) at St. Athan, south Wales, designed to achieve closure of the facility by June 2013 at the latest.

Once depth maintenance on the VC10 ends in 2013 there will be no requirement to maintain RAF aircraft at St. Athan. The management of the DSG, the Government and the Government of Wales have explored exhaustively the prospects for replacing the contract with other work but no such opportunity has been identified. Therefore, our priority is to ensure that the redundancy and retraining schemes available to the workforce fully reflect our appreciation of the loyal, reliable and very skilled work that employees of St. Athan have delivered for the benefit of the RAF and the country.

We have written to the trade unions concluding the consultation process and setting out the redundancy terms that will give the workforce the opportunity to apply for redundancy on the current conditions available for compulsory redundancy.

MOD will continue to work with other Government Departments and agencies to explore future job opportunities for DSG employees who will be affected by the drawdown and closure of the facility. The option of retraining and transferring LABU personnel to other DSG sites will be maximised where this meets business needs and individuals' preferences. And DSG will work closely with external training providers and agencies such as Careers Wales, Jobcentre Plus and other advisory organisations to explore alternative training and job opportunities for any employees wanting to retrain for an alternative career.

I pay tribute to the outstanding service of DSG St. Athan personnel, both past and present, in supporting the UK armed forces with the vital equipment needed on critical operations both at home and overseas.

The series of announcements I have made underline this Government's commitment to provide our armed forces with the equipment and support they need.

The decisions we have taken will introduce new and enhanced capability that is required now and in the coming years, and support, not-prejudge, future decisions in the forthcoming SDR.

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office and DSTL (Targets 2010-11)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The following key targets have been agreed with the chief executives of the UK Hydrographic Office and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) for the FY2010-11.

UK Hydrographic Office

KT1: Safety

While aiming for 100, to achieve a safety index of 95 or higher.

KT2: Defence

To deliver the defence hydrographic programme achieving an index rating of 95 or higher while transitioning to a multi-year service definition annex incorporating incentivised pricing.

KT3: Finance

To achieve a return on capital employed of 9 per cent. on a three-year rolling basis.

KT4: Organisational Excellence

To demonstrate an improvement year-on-year across 10 measures of excellence while also achieving at least 75 out of 100.

KT5: Improving Business Efficiency and deliver Value for Money

To achieve at least 50 out of 70 against seven targets which together reflect a measure of efficiency improvements and value for money.

Dstl

KT1: Quality

Deliver high quality outputs from Dstl-led projects that are assessed externally as impacting on customers' priority issues, including the research and development (R&D) board's priorities.

KT2: Timeliness and customer satisfaction

Deliver at least 90 per cent. of all Dstl-led projects that complete in the financial year 2010-11 to time and to budget, and achieve at least 93 per cent. of customer feedback responses at a score of seven or above for overall satisfaction.

KT3: Capability

Dstl will sustain and develop its technical capability, independently assessing 10 capability groups chosen by the R&D board where Dstl needs to lead thinking either now or in the future. No more than three of these will be assessed as "development needed".

KT4: Business Performance

To maintain strong business performance through:

Achieving an average ROCE of at least 3.5 per cent. over the period 2009-10 to 2013-14.

Achieving an annual operating profit of £18.4 million while using the same charge out rates in 2010-11 as in 2009-10.

Non-staff costs not exceeding 32.1 per cent. of net income.

KT5: Sustainability

Embed sustainability into Dstl's business ethics by achieving and, where these have already been met, exceeding government sustainable operations targets by:

Reducing carbon emissions from buildings by 15 per cent. relative to 2001-02 levels, by the end of 2010-11.

Increasing energy efficiency per m^2 by 17 per cent. relative to 2001-02 levels, by the end of 2010-11.

Increasing recycling figures to 80 per cent. of waste arising by 2010-11.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Climate Change

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and I wish to inform the House that plans will be published on Wednesday 31 March by all major Government Departments to show how they are taking forward action on climate change.

The carbon reduction delivery and adaptation plans set out how Government Departments will work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their own estates and operations, and in the sectors that they can influence. They also show how Departments will cope with the impacts of climate change that we expect to face, including by improving awareness, capacity and skills within Government to respond effectively to a changing climate.

These documents are being published alongside a single overview "Climate Change: Taking Action—Delivering the Low Carbon Transition Plan and preparing for a changing climate". This provides a view of progress across Government and identifies some of the main climate challenges that Departments are working together to address—through delivery of their departmental carbon budgets and adapting to a changing climate in their planning and decision making.

I will place copies of "Climate Change: Taking Action—Delivering the Low Carbon Transition Plan and preparing for a changing climate" in the Libraries of both Houses on Wednesday.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (2009-10 Review)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): I would like to inform the House that the recent FCO-commissioned independent review of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy is complete. I have placed copies of the review in the Libraries of both Houses and it is also available on the WFD website.

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy is a unique organisation that carries out important work to support democracy worldwide. The FCO places great value on its work.

The objective of the review was to assess the Foundation's performance and its value for money. The review found that the WFD is well positioned to make a contribution internationally. It was broadly positive about the WFD's work with parties and Parliaments overseas. The WFD was found to be valued by both participants and beneficiaries. The FCO will continue to work closely with the WFD to ensure that the review's recommendations are implemented.

HEALTH

Social Care Reform Grant

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): The Department has today issued a local authority circular detailing the funding allocations for the Social Care Reform Grant.

This is the final year of the £520 million Social Care Reform Grant which is ring-fenced to be used by local authorities to assist them with their partners in delivering the transformation of adult social care, as set out in "Putting People First: a shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social Care".

In the first two years of the Social Care Reform Grant, significant progress has been made to deliver this transformation but this circular details what councils will need to do in the final year of funding.

In September 2009 the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Local Government Association with the Department of Health agreed a set of milestones focusing on five areas of priority to help councils be clear about what good progress implementing

"Putting People First" looks like and to prioritise their use of the final year of the reform grant. These priorities are:

effective partnerships with people using services, carers and other local citizens;

ensuring everyone has self-directed support and a personal budget;

ensuring universal access to information and advice;

commissioning a range of services to ensure people have choice; and

delivering services in a cost-effective and efficient manner to use the available resources well.

The final year of revenue money (£237 million) has been ring-fenced by the Department, so that it should be used for supporting the process of transformation. In addition, non ring-fenced capital moneys have also been allocated this year. This includes:

£30 million allocated to local authorities as a capital investment grant, to support delivering personal budgets and transformation in adult social care; and

an allocation of £20,000 to each council with adult social service responsibilities to develop innovative strategies and approaches to extra care housing.

This year's funding should enable local authorities to deliver the transformation envisaged in "Putting People First".

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Pursuits

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): I have launched today a public consultation on the management of police pursuits. To promote the efficiency and effectiveness generally of the police, section 39A of the Police Act 1996 empowers me to issue to chief officers of police codes of practice relating to the discharge of their functions.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) will be leading a 12-week public consultation on the draft of a code of practice on the management of police pursuits. The draft has been produced following detailed discussions involving the Home Office (HO), the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), NPIA and the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). We have also consulted the Department for Transport, the Superintendents' Association, the Police Federation, Health and Safety Executive and the Scottish and Welsh Assembly Governments.

Police on-road pursuits typically involve around 35-40 fatalities a year. Not all of these involve the pursuit car. However, both ACPO and the HO agree with the IPCC that we need to ensure we have done all we can to ensure public safety in the process of preventing crime. I want to reduce the risk of casualties to the minimum and ensure that pursuits are undertaken as safely as possible, and only when a necessary and proportionate means of preventing crime and apprehending offenders. I want to ensure public confidence in the management of pursuits.

In 2007, the IPCC published research on police pursuits. Its recommendations included the updating, development and codification of existing ACPO guidance on pursuit management. ACPO prepared new guidance and recommended to Ministers that it should be issued as a statutory code. The Police Act requires chief officers to have regard to such a code. Its issue would therefore ensure more consistent good practice.

Ministers agreed the ACPO recommendation. To help achieve earlier benefits from the guidance and speedier implementation of the code, a Home Office circular was issued last July to all police forces. This announced the planned development of a statutory code based on the guidance and HO and ACPO agreement that all forces should work towards full compliance with that guidance.

The draft code clearly sets out over-arching requirements and principles, including the need to comply with the detailed ACPO operational guidance. The guidance will remain a separate document, subject to updating and amendment as necessary. Code and guidance together will reduce the risks of death and serious injury, enhance public confidence in pursuit management and promote the safe prevention of crime and apprehension of offenders.

Following the consultation, we will consider the responses and feed these into a final draft. The Act requires me to lay before Parliament the code as finally issued. I intend to do this before the end of the year.

NPIA is sending the draft code direct to the police and other key parties and it is available for public comment on the NPIA and HO websites. Copies are also available from the Vote Office and in the House Library.

JUSTICE

Lord Chancellor and the Law Commission

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I am very pleased to announce that the Chairman of the Law Commission and I have agreed a statutory protocol governing how Government Departments and the Law Commission should work together on law reform projects. The protocol is key to ensuring a more productive working relationship between the Law Commission and Whitehall. The protocol has been laid before Parliament today.

The Law Commission Act 2009, which amends the Law Commissions Act 1965 to provide for the statutory protocol, also introduces a duty on the Lord Chancellor to report annually to Parliament on the extent to which Law Commission proposals have been implemented by the Government. The protocol is intended to improve the rates of implementation of Law Commission reports and its success in this respect will be highlighted in the annual reporting to Parliament.

TRANSPORT

Written Answer (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): I regret to inform the House that the answer I gave on 11 March 2010 to parliamentary question 318998, *Official Report*, c. 410-411W, about how many thefts from this Department have been recorded in the last two years was incorrect.

The Department has checked the figures and the answer should read:

"Central records show that since 10 February 2008, 154 items have been reported stolen. Of these 54 were reported stolen from within Departmental premises".

EU Directive on Driving Licences

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): The Department for Transport has published today a response to the public consultation which closed 5 February 2010. It outlines our proposals for implementing the third EU directive on driving licences (directive 2006/126/EC), adopted in December 2006.

Most features of the directive must be transposed into national law by mid-January 2011 and come into practical effect by mid-January 2013. Implementing regulations will be laid before Parliament in order to transpose the directive into law in Great Britain by the due date of January 2011. Separate arrangements apply in Northern Ireland, where driver licensing is a devolved matter.

After considering carefully views expressed by respondents, we intend to maintain the approach of making as little change to our current arrangements as is consistent with the directive and, where change is unavoidable, making it at least cost. Changes include:

A new European moped category AM which will include light quadricycles and tricycles. The minimum age for this category remains unchanged from current requirements at 16 years;

The introduction required under the directive of a new motorbike category A2, providing in the future categories A1, A2 and A.

Progress through these categories will be achieved by passing a test; direct access to a category, by passing a test, will also be possible. Direct access to new category A2 will be 19 years. Direct access for category A will rise from the current 21 to 24 years.

Special provisions for moped and motorcycle riders with a physical disability;

The need for new car drivers to pass a test to tow a medium-sized trailer;

New conditions of approval for organisations with non-DSA driving examiners;

Abolition of the separate category B1 (quadricycles) driving entitlements for new drivers;

Five-year driving licence administrative validity periods for drivers of lorries and buses.

We have decided not to introduce a training route to progressing through the motorcycle categories or, for car drivers, to towing a medium-sized trailer. Although a training route was supported by many respondents, some did not consider that in the current economic downturn the proposals were financially viable. This is also our assessment.

Many respondents opposed our proposals that riders should first take a familiarisation course on a more powerful category of motorcycle before being able to ride that category with a provisional licence before taking their test. They argued instead that riders wishing to ride category A2 or A motorcycles, who have not yet qualified for a full licence for the larger category, should be accompanied by an authorised trainer (AT) when riding on the roads. We agree with this argument and have amended our proposals accordingly.

Copies of the response report are available on the DFT website at www.dft.gov.uk and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Transport Security

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for the Department for Transport has made the following ministerial statement:

On 1 February 2010, *Official Report* columns 2-4WS, I announced the initial deployment of security scanners at Heathrow and Manchester airports. This was part of a package of measures announced as a direct response to the attempted attack on Northwest flight 253 to Detroit on Christmas day 2009. The device used on that flight had clearly been constructed with the aim of making detection by existing screening methods extremely difficult.

The safety of the travelling public is my highest priority and security scanners are a vital additional tool which give airport security staff a much better chance of detecting explosives or other potentially harmful items hidden on a passenger's body.

At the same time that I announced the initial deployment of security scanners I published an interim code of practice to reflect concerns about privacy, health and safety, equality and data protection and announced our intention to consult on it.

Today we are in a position to begin that consultation. This provides an opportunity to influence the final code of practice. We will consider all representations carefully, and this consultation will run until 21 June 2010.

We will inform stakeholders that the consultation paper has been published today. Copies of the consultation paper are available on the Department for Transport's website at www.dft.gov.uk and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment Support

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): Today, I am publishing "Building bridges to work: new approaches to tackling long-term worklessness", which sets out the next steps of welfare reform and will ensure no one is left to a life on benefits.

Historically too many people who were out of work were written off. In the 1980s and early 1990s long-term worklessness soared. We have had to deal with that legacy. Since 1997 worklessness has fallen, the number of people on working age inactive benefits has fallen by 300,000 and the action we have taken has prevented a big increase in inactivity during this recession.

Today we are going further. In "Building bridges to work: new approaches to tackling long-term worklessness" we set how we will support the long-term workless back into work; and support disabled people and those with health conditions who are at risk of long-term unemployment and worklessness to make sure no one gets left behind in the recovery. We will do this by introducing more individualised help alongside stronger personalised conditions, including extra support for people who are newly assessed as fit for work but may have spent a number of years on an incapacity benefit.

For those who are doing their bit but still struggling to get a job, the Government will step in and do their bit too. For jobseekers who do not find work after two years we will guarantee them employment or work placements and for people on employment and support

allowance who do not find work after two years, we will provide a guaranteed place on our specialist disability employment programme—Work Choice.

I am also today publishing the Government's response to the Social Security Advisory Committee's consultation on the Employment and Support Allowance (Transitional Provisions, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit) (Existing Awards) Regulations and laying these regulations before Parliament.

Over the next three years health care professionals will assess current incapacity benefits claimants, looking at what they can do, as well as what they cannot, using the work capability assessment to move them to our more active welfare regimes, culminating in the abolition of old style incapacity benefits by April 2014.

To ensure people are directed to the right support to get into work we will amend the work capability assessment and our proposals for the revised assessment are also published today.

The revised assessment will for example take better account of an individual's ability to adapt to their condition and introduce improved assessment of fluctuating conditions.

These proposals involve a radical change in the way we use our resources to support people at risk of long-term worklessness—providing more personalised help and conditions coupled with guarantees to prevent those who are able to work from spending a lifetime on benefits.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 30 March 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

National Measurement Office (Performance Targets)

The Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property (Mr. David Lammy): My noble friend the Minister for Science and Innovation, Lord Drayson has today made the following statement:

I have tasked the National Measurement Office to provide a measurement infrastructure which supports innovation, facilitates fair competition, promotes international trade and protects consumers, health and the environment.

I have set the National Measurement Office the following targets for 2010-11:

To increase efficiency by reducing by at least 3 per cent. activities which are not directly linked to delivery or staff training.

To supply a customer-focused certification service by completing 93 per cent. of applications in accordance with agreed customer requirements.

To provide a prompt calibration service that completes at least 95 per cent. of jobs (including preparation of certificates) within 15 working days of acceptance of the work and also an average completion time of less than 10 working days.

To provide a legal metrology programme that completes 95 per cent. of the scheduled milestones by their due dates.

To preserve the investment of public moneys by ensuring that the ratio of spend on science programmes to legal programmes is at least as much as when the NMS unit transferred to NMO on 1 April 2009.

To provide a timely metering service by ensuring all meter examiner appointments, manufacturer authorisations/consents and modifications to meter approval and decisions, completes 92 per cent. of jobs within five business days of receipt of all necessary documentation.

To manage the finances effectively by ensuring that the portfolio of metrology programmes is provided within 1 per cent. of the allocated budget.

To manage the Teddington estate finances within 1 per cent. of the allocated budget.

Chief executive to reply within 10 working days to all letters from MPs delegated to him to reply.

TREASURY

Buying Solutions (Targets for 2010-11)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): Buying Solutions has been set four performance targets for 2010-11. These are as follows:

to facilitate at least £1,000 million value-for-money improvements (£800 million cashable) for the public sector in 2010-11;

to achieve an overall customer satisfaction level of above 90 per cent;

to make a return on capital employed of 6.5 per cent. over a five year period (April 2009 to March 2014); and

to reduce by 5 per cent. the ratio of internal costs over value-for-money improvements with the out-turn for the same ratio in 2009-10 proportionate to cashable savings.

Finance Bill 2010

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): The Finance Bill will be published on Thursday 1 April.

Explanatory notes on the Bill will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and in the Libraries of both Houses on that day. Copies of the explanatory notes will be available on the Treasury's website.

CABINET OFFICE

Mutuals

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and for the Olympics, and Paymaster General (Tessa Jowell): Over the Easter recess, the Cabinet Office will publish "Mutual Benefit: giving people power over public services". The paper sets out the potential for mutuals to stimulate and secure greater citizen participation and engagement in public services.

"Mutual Benefit: giving people power over public services" also sets out the Government's plans to facilitate the development of mutualism in three key public services.

Following publication, "Mutual Benefit: giving people power over public services" can be downloaded at: www.hmq.gov.uk/media/60217/mutuals.pdf

Copies will also be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Safeguarding Children

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): On 18 January I asked Sir Roger Singleton, the Government's independent chief adviser on the safety of children, to review the use of the defence of reasonable punishment in certain part-time educational and learning settings to establish the key issues and whether it was an area where we needed to consider a change in the interests of strengthening safeguards for children.

Sir Roger has now provided a report, "Physical punishment: improving consistency and protection", containing his advice and recommendations, for which I am very grateful. I appreciate the extensive work he has undertaken with a wide range of stakeholders and the careful consideration he has given to this complex and sensitive issue.

Sir Roger's main recommendation is that the current ban on physical punishment in schools and other children's settings should be extended to include any form of advice, guidance, teaching, training, instruction, worship, treatment or therapy and to any form of care or supervision which is carried out other than by a parent or member of the child's own family or household. This will resolve the discrepancy whereby a teacher is banned from smacking a child in a school, but the same teacher could administer physical punishment in an out-of-school setting. I believe this is a sensible and proportionate solution to removing this inconsistency.

Secondly, Sir Roger has recommended that the Government should continue to promote positive parenting strategies and effective behaviour management techniques directed towards eliminating the use of smacking. Parents who disapprove of smacking should make this clear to others who care for their children.

Thirdly, he has recommended that the development of appropriate safeguarding policies in informal education and learning organisations should continue to be promoted. Legal changes which flow from adoption of these recommendations will need to be communicated effectively.

The Government have accepted Sir Roger's recommendations in full and we are committed to implementing them as soon as possible.

I have placed copies of Sir Roger's report and the Government response in the Libraries of both Houses.

School Teachers Review Body Recommendations

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): The 19th report of the School Teachers Review Body (STRB) is being published today, covering a range of matters referred to them in October 2009. I am grateful for the careful consideration which the STRB has given to these matters. Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office, the Libraries of both Houses and at www.teachernet.gov.uk/pay.

The STRB has recommended that revised criteria for payment of allowances to teachers of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) are introduced from September 2010. In addition, it recommends that the two discrete values in use currently should be replaced by a range.

I am grateful to the STRB for these recommendations which will allow teachers of pupils with special educational needs to continue to receive appropriate reward, and subject to consultees' views, I intend to implement new criteria.

The STRB has also made recommendations concerning criteria for appointments to deputy head and assistant head roles as part of a programme of work on which the STRB has previously made recommendations.

I note the STRB's recommendations for criteria for these leadership posts and I agree that this work should be taken into account in developing leadership standards and professional responsibilities for all teachers. I would welcome consultees' views on the criteria.

My detailed response contains further information on these issues.

The following sets out the full set of recommendations from the School Teachers' Review Body and published in the 19th Report (Cm 7836) on 30 March 2010, together with the response from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families. The STRB's recommendations are set out below.

The 19th report of the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) is being published today. It covers the matters referred to the STRB in October 2009. Copies are available in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office and in the Libraries of both Houses and at http://www.ome.uk.com/STRB_Reports.aspx.

In making its recommendations, the STRB was required to have regard to items a to f set out in the remit letter of 8 October 2009. This report covers criteria for posts in the leadership group, and for special educational needs payments. I am grateful for the careful and detailed attention the STRB has given to these matters. I am inviting comments on the STRB's report and my response to its recommendations by 29 April 2010.

Special Educational Needs Allowances

The STRB has recommended that:

SEN allowances should continue to be paid to teachers working in specified SEN roles but that the present system of two separate and defined SEN allowances be replaced with spot value allowances that fall within a specified SEN range.

The new SEN range start at £2,001 and the maximum be set at £3,954, to be uprated in line with any general uprating of teachers' pay. Schools and authorities should determine the spot values for individual posts, taking account of local context and specified factors.

SEN allowances be paid to those teaching:

in SEN posts that require a mandatory SEN qualification (all settings);

in special schools, and in designated special classes or units in schools and local authorities.

SEN allowances be paid to those teaching in non-designated settings, including PRUs, that are analogous to designated special classes or units where the post:

involves a substantial element of working directly with children with special educational needs;

requires the exercise of a teacher's professional skills and judgement in the teaching of children with special educational needs; and

has a greater level of involvement in the teaching of children with special educational needs than is the normal requirement of teachers throughout the school or authority.

In other exceptional cases, payment of SEN allowances be at the discretion of the school or local authority.

Schools and local authorities set out clearly in their teachers' pay policies the arrangements for rewarding teachers with SEN responsibilities.

I am grateful to the STRB for its consideration of this issue and agree that the two current allowances should be replaced by a range, and the existing criteria revised. I consider that any new criteria should be linked to teaching and learning in all educational settings, and am not therefore convinced of the need for discretion. Subject to consultees' views, I intend to implement revised criteria and an SEN range from September 2010.

Leadership Group criteria

The STRB has recommended the following:

Subject to review in any future STRB consideration of school leadership issues, the STPCD—the school teachers pay and conditions documents—be revised to include the following, with effect from September 2010:

Before establishing or making an appointment to any deputy head teacher or assistant head teacher post, the relevant body must be satisfied that:

(i) the post carries a substantial element of whole school responsibility that is not required of all classroom teachers or TLR holders, and

(ii) the holder of the post plays a major role, with full accountability, under the overall direction of the head teacher, in—

(a) formulating the aims and objectives of the school;

(b) establishing, developing and implementing the policies through which they are to be achieved;

(c) managing staff and resources to that end;

(d) monitoring progress towards the achievement of the school's aims, objectives and policies; and

(e) undertaking any professional duties delegated by the head teacher, including, for example: duties that impact on the standards of achievement and behaviour of pupils across the school; duties that involve working with external bodies and agencies; or duties that impact on securing pupils' access to their educational entitlements.

That there should be an additional requirement for deputy head teacher posts to carry a level of responsibility exceeding that expected of an assistant head teacher employed in the same school, including, when appropriate, responsibility for discharging the responsibilities of the head teacher in his/her absence.

I am grateful to the STRB for its detailed consideration of this issue and I welcome the recommendations for criteria for deputy and assistant head posts. I believe that this work should be taken into account in developing leadership standards and professional responsibilities for all teachers. I agree that pay arrangements for the leadership group should continue to be taken forward by the STRB in the course of a future remit. I would welcome consultees' views on the criteria which I will consider when developing criteria for implementation in 2010.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Petitions Duty

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham): I am announcing today the implementation of the duty for local authorities to respond to petitions, giving real power to local people to raise the issues they care about with their council and ensuring they receive a meaningful response.

The petitions duty is provided for by chapter 2 of Part 1 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The core elements of the duty, ensuring that local authorities must set out in a petition scheme how they will respond to petitions from people who live, work or study in their area, will come into force on 15 June this year. The requirements relating to electronic petitions will come into force on 15 December, reflecting the additional time needed for local authorities to procure, install and test software and to train staff.

To support effective delivery by local authorities, I am publishing today statutory guidance and a model petitions scheme, alongside the Government's response to consultation on draft versions of those documents. A total of 123 responses were received, and a number of changes have been made to the guidance and model scheme to reflect the helpful points that were raised.

The guidance draws attention to a number of areas where the Government expect local authorities to use the strong powers and influence they already have to respond to the issues raised in petitions. Examples include:

On antisocial behaviour—asking the courts to grant an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO); applying to the courts for a premises closure order to close properties where there is persistent nuisance or disorder; making a gating order to restrict access to any public highway to prevent crime or ASB; providing intensive, non-negotiable behavioural support through family intervention projects to perpetrators of antisocial behaviour and their families;

On alcohol related crime and disorder—placing restrictions on public drinking in the area by establishing a designated public place order or, as a last resort, imposing an alcohol disorder zone. When an alcohol disorder zone is established, the licensed premises in the area where alcohol related trouble is being caused are required to contribute to the costs of extra policing in that area;

On underperforming schools—issuing a warning notice outlining expectations and a time frame for improvement; for schools that have failed to comply with a warning notice or are in an Ofsted category of notice to improve (requiring significant improvement) or special measures, authorities can also appoint additional governors, establish an interim executive board, remove the school's delegated budgets, require the school to enter into a formal contract or partnership or (only if the school is in special measures) require its closure; and

On underperforming hospitals—asking the council's scrutiny committee to investigate concerns on issues like poor hygiene—the committee has powers to review services, request information from NHS bodies, and make urgent recommendations; work with local involvement networks, which have powers to carry out spot checks and seek information and responses from health service providers.

In order to avoid confusion and duplication with existing statutory arrangements for citizens to express their views, the Local Authorities (Petitions) (England) Order 2010 excludes petitions on planning decisions and on licensing decisions on alcohol, gambling or sex establishments, from the scope of the petitions duty. However, any broader issues around the delivery of services in these areas remain within scope (for example, the effectiveness of an authority's process for dealing with planning applications). It also excludes issues relating to the dealings of individuals or entities, where there is already a statutory right to a review or appeal (other than the right to complain to the local government ombudsman). The order stipulates the maximum threshold which local authorities can set for a petition to trigger a full council debate at 5 per cent. of the local population.

Park Home Site Licensing Provisions

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Ian Austin): I am publishing today a paper "Park Homes Site Licensing Reforms: The Way Forward and Next Steps" which sets out the Government's proposals for the reform of licensing of park home sites in light of the responses received to the May 2009 consultation paper, "Park Home Site licensing—Improving the Management of Park Home Sites". Copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

The Government want a thriving and well-run sector that provides sites where people want to live. We want a licensing system that raises and maintains standards on sites and protects residents by ensuring sites are safe, well planned and properly managed with appropriate facilities and services.

The paper announces that the Government are committed to introducing a number of key reforms to the current site licensing regime, including a requirement that persons engaged in the management of park home sites are "fit and proper" and only such persons may hold licences. The new system will give local authorities duties to impose management conditions in licences and provides a range of enforcement tools to ensure that site licensing conditions are complied with. Measures will be required to be put in place for alternative management arrangements where sites are not able to be licensed. The new scheme will also allow licensing authorities to recover their costs in connection with

their duties under the provisions by charging appropriate fees. A new regime for appealing licensing decisions to the residential property tribunal will be introduced.

The Government intend to establish a task force, including representatives of local authorities, the industry and residents to advise and recommend how some of the key elements of licensing may be most effectively implemented with minimum burdens.

The Government's proposals are intended to drive up standards in this sector (where that proves necessary) and where that is not possible, to remove the ability of those unscrupulous and incompetent site owners from continuing to manage park home sites.

Sustainable Communities Act 2007 (Local Spending Reports)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham): I am publishing a consultation paper today, 30 March, on the arrangements for the production of the second local spending report. The aim of the local spending reports is to assist local authorities, their partners and local people in promoting the sustainability of local communities by providing more information about the public funding that is spent in their area. The Act requires me to make arrangements for the production of local spending reports and to consult such persons likely to be affected by the arrangements, as I think appropriate. This consultation document places work to develop local spending reports in the broader context of our efforts to make public data public. This approach was summarised in the report to Parliament "Making local public expenditure data public and the development of Local Spending Reports" in December 2009.

The document will be placed in the Library of the House and will be available on the Communities and Local Government website at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/consultationsecondspendrpt.

We have presented also the first local spending report on the Places database today at http://www.local pending.communities.gov.uk/ and are seeking views on this as part of the consultation process. This will provide intuitive, user-friendly tools to explore, compare and contrast data via interactive maps, charts and tables. These online tools will be freely and publicly available, thereby ensuring that these local spending data are available not only to local authorities and their strategic partners but also to citizens in a consistent form.

Following consultation, I propose to publish the second local spending report in summer 2010.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The Government committed to implementing in full all the recommendations arising from the review of the armed forces compensation scheme when it was published on 10 February 2010. As the review acknowledged, considerable detailed work is required to translate the review's high-level recommendations into legislation. An important first step is the formation of the proposed independent medical expert group, which I am establishing on an interim basis today in order to meet the time scales envisaged by the review. The terms of reference, structure and membership of this interim medical expert group, which will advise on armed forces compensation, is set out below:

Terms of Reference

The interim independent medical group is established as a result of the AFCS review (Cm 7798) published 10 February 2010. Its role, primarily, is to advise on the appropriate levels of compensation for all the specific injuries, illnesses and diseases highlighted in the AFCS review as being areas of concern, in time to be included in the consultation in autumn 2010 leading to the legislation planned for early 2011 to implement the review.

In addition, the interim group will also, as appropriate:

a. provide initial advice on the list of recognised diseases that, on the balance of probabilities, are predominantly caused by service in the armed forces since 6 April 2005;

b. provide initial advice on those injuries, illnesses or diseases that might be made worse by service during the first six months of service that are currently excluded from the scheme. This advice will need to distinguish between those injuries, illnesses or diseases that might simply be triggered by service, but are not caused by service (perhaps such as asthma, which might only become apparent during initial training);

c. advise on the definitive structure and membership of the group, beyond the transitional group which would only be in existence for around 12 months;

d. advise on any other medical matters in relation to the armed forces compensation schemes that the Minister for veterans requests it to provide.

Membership

The chairman and expert members of this interim group will comprise senior licensed consultants drawn from the relevant specialties, including: trauma/orthopaedics, neurology, ear/nose/throat, occupational medicine, and mental health. The MOD's senior medical adviser to the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (personnel) will also be a member of the group. Three lay members will also be appointed to the group: one from service/ex-service organisations on the statutorily established Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation (CAC), one from the in-service representatives on the CAC, and an injured serving person who has claimed under the scheme. The group will be able to draw on other expert advice where required.

The chairman of the group will be a member of the CAC that advises the Minister for veterans, and the chairman would present the advice of the group to the Minister as a member of the CAC. The advice and the Government's decisions in relation to it would be published together at the same time on the MOD's website.

The following individuals have been appointed to form this interim group:

Chairman:

Professor Sir Anthony Newman Taylor CBE, FRCP, FFOM, FMedSci

Expert Members:

Professor David Alexander MA(Hons) C.Psychol PhD FBPS FRSM(Hon) FRCPsych;

Professor Linda Luxon FRCP;

Dr. John Scadding MD FRCP;

Dr. David Snashall MSc FRCP FFOM LLM;

Professor James Ryan OStJ, MB, BCh, BAO (NUI), FRCS (Eng), MCh (NUI), Hon FCEM, DMCC(SoA), RAMC(V)

MOD's Senior Medical Adviser to the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (personnel):

Dr. Anne Braidwood CBE MRCP MRCGP

Lay Members:

Lt. Col. Jerome Church MBE, General Secretary British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, member of the CAC, representing the Confederation of British Service and Ex-Service Organisations;

Col. Robin Vickers, Army Pay Colonel, representing the three single Service members on the CAC: and

Col. David Richmond, a serving member of the armed forces who suffered an AK47 bullet wound that shattered his femur in Afghanistan in June 2008, who was injured when Commanding Officer 5SCOTS.

Mode of working

The group itself will not be expected to create its advice from first principles. Instead, the MOD would investigate issues and draw up evidence-based proposals for the group to consider and either validate or advise, support or challenge in the same way that the MOD conducted the work of the AFCS review and used the independent scrutiny group to validate this work. The MOD will provide secretariat support to the group.

The group will meet as and when required, perhaps four to six times during its existence. Between meetings business will be conducted via correspondence. Some meetings may be conducted virtually via video or telephone conferencing.

Terms of Appointment

The chairman and members of this interim independent medical group to advise on armed forces compensation will be appointed until February 2011. The roles will not be remunerated, but the MOD will reimburse reasonable travel and subsistence expenses. The chairman and members will be expected to follow the seven principles of public life enunciated by the Nolan committee.

Government Profit Formula

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): The Government have accepted the findings of the review board for Government contracts as detailed in their report of the 2010 general review of the profit formula for non-competitive Government contracts. The board's recommendations will be implemented in accordance with arrangements subsequently agreed with the industry side and recorded in an addendum to the published report. I will be placing a copy of the report in the Library of the House. The recommendations will be implemented for new non-competitive work with effect from 1 April 2010.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Adapting to Coastal Change

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I am today publishing "Adapting to Coastal Change: Developing a Policy Framework", which takes forward some of the ideas on supporting community adaptation to coastal change that we consulted on last summer. The work of the coastal change pathfinders that I announced on 1 December 2009 is part of this work.

"Adapting to Coastal Change: Developing a Policy Framework" sets out ideas and guidance on how communities can plan for coastal change as well as looking at what managing change might mean for business, local infrastructure and our historic and natural environment. In doing so, it draws on examples of best practice, including the pathfinders which are looking at new approaches. It also confirms the introduction of a new coastal erosion assistance grant. This is a fixed grant of £6,000 available to local authorities to help homeowners with the costs of demolishing a home at risk of loss to coastal erosion and some basic moving costs.

"Adapting to Coastal Change", together with a report summarising responses to last summer's coastal change policy consultation and new guidance on community adaptation planning and engagement, will be published on the DEFRA website today.

Departmental Expenditure Limits (Budget Control Totals)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I wish to announce that for 2009-10 DEFRA will switch £25 million available near-cash resource DEL budget to cover a forecast deficit against its capital DEL control total, in accordance with HM Treasury's consolidated budgetary guidance. Although the financial outturn for the year is not final, the current assessment of the required switch is £25 million. The movement in spend from near-cash resource DEL to capital DEL is in respect of flood defences where the exact nature and classification of the expenditure is determined by the Environment Agency, as they undertake the work.

	Change		*New DEL*		*£'000*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL[1]	-	-25,000	4,405,871	-1,709,991	2,695,880
of which:					
Administration budget	-	-	304,496	-	304,496
Near-cash in RDEL	-	-25,000	4,130,436	-1,777,988	2,360,448
Capital DEL[1]	-	25,000	262,071	457,179	719,250

	Change		New DEL		£'000
	Voted	Non-voted	Voted	Non-voted	Total
Less Depreciation[3]	-	-	-115,820	-108,569	-224,389
Total	-	-	4,552,122	-1,361,381	3,190,741

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Rural Payments Agency (Performance Targets 2010-11)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I have set the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) the following performance targets for 2010-11.

Service delivery quality

To administer common agricultural policy and other schemes to meet the following requirements:

To have paid 85 per cent. of customers by 31 December 2010 and 95 per cent. by value of valid single payment scheme 2010 scheme claims by 31 March 2011.

To record 98 per cent. of notifications of births deaths and movements of cattle on the cattle tracing system within 14 days of their receipt.

To make 98 per cent. of rural development programme for England payments for Natural England and Regional Development Agencies in accordance with agreed service level agreements.

Customer impact

To demonstrate a continued commitment to customers by achieving a minimum annual average customer satisfaction score of 7.5 out of 10.0, as measured through surveys of external customers.

To increase electronic uptake of RPA services by receiving:

10,000 electronic applications for SPS 2010.

85 per cent. of CTS transactions via an electronic channel by the end of 2010-11.

Value for public money

To demonstrate clear progress towards achieving the Treasury disallowance target of 2 per cent. or less of fund value, for all CAP schemes administered by the RPA.

Achieve a 9.8 per cent. efficiency saving in revenue budget by the end of the 2010-11 financial year by managing service delivery within indicative budget levels.

For the single payment scheme, achieve a cost per claim reduction of 15 per cent. for processing costs.

Capacity and capability

To demonstrate improved capacity and capability to meet targets and implement change with particular focus on leadership, (core to RPA) data quality, financial performance and contributions in response to the DEFRA review and the Public Accounts Committee.

Further details are given in the RPA business plan for 2010-11 and copies are available on their website.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Consular Fees Order 2010

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has recently undertaken a review of the fees charged for visa and consular services, both in the UK and overseas. On 10 February 2010 Her Majesty in Council approved the Consular Fees Order 2010. This revokes and replaces the Consular Fees Order 2009. The Government are today announcing changes to the consular fees to be charged under this order with effect from 6 April 2010.

Fees for passport applications made in the United Kingdom remain at current levels whereas the fees for passport applications made abroad including applications for temporary and emergency passports and the new emergency travel documents have increased by 2.90 per cent. which is the current rate of inflation.

The fees for legalisation services have also increased in line with inflation.

Fees for receiving applications for entry clearance to Commonwealth countries, British overseas territories and Crown dependencies continue to be charged in the order and have increased since last year. These fees are "Home Office fees" and are approved by the Home Office Minister but are still contained within the Consular Fees Order.

Other consular fees, representing a range of services performed at posts abroad, are also set to increase by 2.90 per cent.

It is right that those who benefit from consular services should meet the cost of them, rather than the UK taxpayer. The new fees represent the full economic cost of what we do, and will ensure that British missions continue to provide a high standard of service to consular customers.

Details of the new fees will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

General Affairs and Foreign Affairs Councils

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): The General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council were held on 22 March in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary represented the UK.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The provisional report of the meeting can be found at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/113482.pdf

Iran

The agreed 'A' points included a EU declaration on free access to information in Iran calling on the Iranian authorities to stop jamming satellite broadcasting and internet censorship. There was no FAC discussion. A text of the declaration can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/113468.pdf

Haiti

High Representative Ashton and Humanitarian Affairs Commissioner Georgieva briefed on their recent visits, stressing the need to learn lessons and review structures.

The Commissioner said humanitarian efforts must continue for at least 12 months and should take account of the coming hurricane season. Both the High Representative and the Commissioner said the EU needed to do more to raise its visibility. Development Commissioner Piebalgs noted the need to push for realistic reconstruction plans at the donors conference on 31 March in New York.

Ministers agreed conclusions on Haiti including on the donors conference. These can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/113466.pdf

Afghanistan/Pakistan

The High Representative introduced the new double-hatted EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Afghanistan, Vygaudas Ušackas, and urged member states to give him their full support to implement the EU's action plan. She stressed the need for the international community to maintain momentum generated by the London conference and ensure the Afghan Government fulfilled its commitments. The EUSR said his three key tasks were to merge the two existing EU offices in Kabul, establish a close working relationship with member states missions on the ground and increase the EU's visibility.

The Foreign Secretary said the EUSR should make his own distinct contribution to the international effort and suggested three objectives: to become the effective EU political voice on the ground; to ensure that EU activities were a catalyst for progress—including integrating EUPOL with NATO efforts and supporting local governors; and to develop a coherent EU development strategy.

The High Representative said she was considering options on EUPOL and would share her thoughts with member states in due course. She looked forward to a discussion on implementing the action plan at the April FAC.

A text of the agreed conclusions can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/113468.pdf

On Pakistan, High Representative Ashton urged member states to show support ahead of the 21 April summit, especially on generalised system of preferences (GSP+). We should back Pakistan economically as well as politically. The Foreign Secretary strongly endorsed the importance of EU trade with Pakistan.

Middle East

The High Representative briefed on her visit to the region of 18 March.

The Quartet Representative (Tony Blair) set out the difficulties facing the peace process. Europe had a key role in helping progress negotiations. The Foreign Secretary stressed the need to support proximity talks, which needed to focus on substantive issues.

AOB: Ukraine

The Commissioner, Štefan Füle, said the Commission was taking forward the action plan, including with the new Ukrainian Foreign Minister this week, and would revert with further recommendations at a future FAC.

AOB: Moldova

Member states urged the Commission to speed up the provision of macro financial assistance to Moldova which Enlargement Commissioner Füle confirmed would commence in April. He noted the visa dialogue was expected to start on 15 June and he had written to the Moldovan Government asking them to follow the Venice Commission's advice on future constitutional reform.

AOB: Libya/Switzerland—Visas

Ministers discussed the Libya/Swiss bilateral dispute, which had resulted in Libya refusing visas to citizens of all Schengen countries. The High Representative undertook to give clear messages to the Swiss Foreign Minister at their meeting on 24 March.

AOB: Western Balkans

Slovenia gave a short brief on the Brdo Western Balkans conference of 20 March reaffirming the leaders' commitment to joining the EU, meeting the required criteria and promoting good neighbourly relations.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL AND GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council met in joint session, chaired by the High Representative and the Presidency (Mr. Moratinos), to discuss the European External Action Service (EAS).

The High Representative presented progress so far. She committed to present her proposal shortly, noting this needed to be agreed by both the Council and the European Parliament. She hoped all institutions involved would recognise each others' perspectives and work together to deliver a coherent service. She highlighted the financial and staffing regulations and the budget as areas where a constructive approach was necessary. And Ministers should engage with national Parliaments ahead of discussions with the European Parliament.

The Foreign Secretary set out the UK's support for the EAS as a shared project and a great opportunity. The EAS needed to have the capacity to add value and this should include having a complementary role on cross-cutting policy issues such as climate change and migration. He stressed the need for merit based appointments.

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The provisional text of the Council's discussion and agreed 'A' points can be found at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/113481.pdf

Europe 2020 Strategy

The Presidency (Mr. Moratinos) invited comments on the draft European Council conclusions covering Europe 2020 and climate change.

Ministers discussed the Commission's proposals on competiveness, the setting of targets, the stability and growth pact and financial regulation.

The Foreign Secretary stressed the need to send a clear signal about the EU's response to the economic crisis. We also needed to learn from the Lisbon strategy and work towards uchievable, relevant targets that were set and owned at member state level.

Climate Change

On climate change, the Foreign Secretary led a number of member states in stressing the need to maintain ambition, implement the Copenhagen accord and move forward on fast start financing and mitigation/adaptation.

Dinner with President Herman Van Rompuy

The President of the Council hosted a General Affairs Council dinner where Europe 2020, European Council working methods and external relations were discussed.

On Europe 2020, member states discussed the Commission's proposed targets in areas such as poverty and education and the need to reconcile these with national targets.

Western European Union (British Membership)

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): The Western European Union (WEU) has played a valuable role in discussion on European security. It embedded the principle of mutual defence in post-war Europe, promoted consultation and co-operation on defence and security matters in Western Europe and has conducted operations in a number of vital theatres, including the Persian Gulf and the Adriatic. Members from both Houses, past and present, have played a valuable role in pursuing the UK's interests within the WEU and I would like to take this opportunity to pay warm tribute to their efforts.

But the WEU's mutual defence role was essentially symbolic as soon as NATO was established and successive UK Governments have made clear, as the Lisbon treaty does, that NATO is the forum and the foundation for collective defence of the allies.

Moreover, the operational role of the WEU has been succeeded by the EU, following the UK/French initiative to create security and defence policy capacity in the EU. With this development, which NATO and the US specifically have welcomed, it is clear that the Western European Union is no longer relevant to today's European security architecture. While the UK recognises the role the WEU Assembly has played in engaging the views of national parliamentarians from across Europe on European defence, we do not believe this justifies the cost of over €2 million a year to the UK alone.

For that reason, the UK intends to withdraw from the Western European Union. In accordance with the modified Brussels treaty, we will formally inform the Belgian Government of our decision in April 2010. A 12-month notice period will then follow, during which the UK will remain a member of the WEU, giving an opportunity for discussion on how to develop cross-European parliamentary scrutiny of European defence issues.

Given the inter-governmental nature of the EU's common security and defence policy, we believe that this remains entirely a matter for national Parliaments and co-ordination between them. There is no reason and no case for the European Parliament to expand its competence in this area.

We are in discussion with other WEU member states on this issue. Many of them also believe that the time has come to radically reform or close the organisation. Following this announcement, we will continue to engage our European partners on this issue and on future cross- European parliamentary scrutiny of European defence.

We will also seek to use this opportunity to improve the exchange of information and engagement between the EU and NATO, including the involvement of non-EU NATO European allies in European defence.

HEALTH

Building the National Care Service

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): Today the Government are laying before Parliament the White Paper, "Building the National Care Service" (Cm 7854).

We have listened to the views of the public and stakeholders through the 2008 engagement process and the 2009 Big Care Debate. The Big Care Debate received over 28,000 direct responses, with more than 40,000 people contributing to the debate through further research or events organised by stakeholders. The consultation showed that there was strong support for our vision of a National Care Service and while there was no clear consensus on funding, the comprehensive option was the most preferred. Today we have published an independent summary of the consultation alongside the White Paper and placed a copy in the Library.

We also held a Care and Support Conference last month with the Care and Support Alliance and other key stakeholders. They urged us to push forward with reform and favoured the comprehensive option.

We believe the time has come to build a comprehensive National Care Service. This will be for all adults in England with an eligible care need, providing free care when they need it—whoever they are, wherever they live in England, and whatever condition leads them to need care. It will give everyone the peace of mind that they and their families will be cared for should the need arise, and it will mean that no one need live in fear of losing their home or their savings to pay for care.

The Government's vision is for a National Care Service that gives people choice and control, and is focused on keeping people well and independent. It will ensure that different parts of the system work better together, with a new duty for NHS bodies and local authorities to deliver integrated care.

Millions of people care for a family member or friend. This is the hallmark of a civilised society. But we must do more to give support to those who provide such care. Building on the carers' strategy, the National Care Service will support those caring for others by improving the quality of formal care, and working with employers and Job Centre Plus, to help carers to live the life they want to live.

We recognise that building the new National Care Service will be one of the biggest changes to the welfare state since the creation of the NHS. We are also creating it during a period of fiscal consolidation. Reform to social care must be consistent with our plans for fiscal consolidation and reflect the tough decisions that will need to be made in the next spending review. This means we need to build the new service in stages.

The first stage is to create a step change in the provision of services in the home and in our communities. These services are essential if we are to ensure that more people are supported in their homes. Central to this is the Personal Care at Home Bill, to be implemented in 2011, enabling us to provide free personal care for people in their own home for those with the highest needs. The first stage of reform will also see reablement services available in every community, ensuring that

there is a service by which people are supported to regain their independence and confidence when they need home care for the first time. As part of the first stage we will push forward with existing reforms that are already delivering real benefits for people such as the dementia strategy, the carers' strategy and Putting People First.

The second stage of reform, during the next Parliament, will be to put in place the building blocks of a national system of care and support, in particular the establishment of clear national standards and entitlements. We will introduce a National Care Service Bill early in the next Parliament as a major step forward. From 2014, care entitlements will be extended meaning that anyone staying in residential care for more than two years will receive free care after the second year. The first and second stages together will mean that the most vulnerable in our society, those with the highest needs, will be protected from very high care costs and that many more people will be supported in their own homes.

During the next Parliament, we will take further steps towards the full reform of the system—moving towards the third stage in which the comprehensive National Care Service becomes a reality, with care free when people need it.

To do this will require everyone to contribute through a fair care contribution. So at the start of the next Parliament, we will establish a Commission to help to reach consensus on the right way of funding the system. The Commission will determine the fairest and most sustainable way for people to contribute. It will make recommendations to Ministers which, if accepted, will be implemented in the Parliament after next. The Commission will determine the options that should be open to people so that they have choice and flexibility about how to pay their care contribution. Our expectation is that the Commission will consider all the various options for payment put forward by stakeholders and the public as part of the Big Care Debate and at the Care and Support Conference.

"Building the National Care Service" (Cm 7854) is in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Pensions

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): The Police Pensions Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) Scheme, which was introduced in 1990, has served as a useful means by which police officers can top up their retirement pension. However, the opportunities now open to those who want to save for a personal pension reduce the need for an in-house AVC scheme. After consulting the Police Negotiating Board we have decided to close the police AVC scheme to new business from 1 October 2010, subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary changes to the relevant regulations.

Notice of this change has been given to the two providers concerned, Standard Life and Equitable Life. Regular contributions in effect on 30 September can continue to be made but the change will mean that no new or increased contributions will be possible from 1 October. We recommend the need in all cases for officers to satisfy themselves about whether AVC investments are right for them, if necessary by taking independent financial advice.

As part of our review of the current arrangements for topping up police pensions we are discussing with the Police Negotiating Board proposals for introducing a new facility, Added Pension, which will enable officers to buy specific amounts of pension, subject to set limits, on a cost-neutral basis for the police pension scheme. The introduction of Added Pension would be accompanied by the closure to new contracts of the current facility of buying added years. The aim is for this change to be made at the same time as the closure of the AVC scheme to new business but this is subject to confirmation.

Tackling Knives and Serious Youth Violence Action Programme

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): This week marks the end of phase 2 of the tackling knives and serious youth violence action programme (TKAP). Over the past 12 months, we have targeted nearly £7 million of funding on 15 high priority areas and on the British Transport Police in order to reduce serious youth violence.

Last week's deaths of two young people in London was a stark reminder, if one were needed, of the need for our continued action in this area. We are committed to reducing serious youth violence to make sure that no families face the devastation that these young people's families are suffering.

We are focused on tougher enforcement, tougher sentences and new legislation to tackle violent crime and gangs. We increased the starting tariff for a life sentence for adults committing murder using a knife or other weapon taken to the scene to a minimum 25 years in prison.

We will publish detailed results from the programme in the summer, but across England and Wales as a whole the picture is encouraging. Recorded crime statistics show that in the period April to September 2009 covering the first six months of phase 2 of TKAP, there was a 7 per cent. fall in recorded knife crime, compared with the same period the previous year, including a 34 per cent. fall in homicide with a knife/sharp instrument —100 homicides involving a knife/sharp instrument in April to September 2009 and 152 in April to September 2008. These statistics build on annual figures for 2008-09 which saw a 7 per cent. drop in knife/sharp instrument homicides, compared with 2007-08.

Over 100 hospitals are now sharing A&E data with local police and community safety partnerships in England and Wales, to enable targeted local enforcement and other activities to reduce violence. The Home Office has provided £300,000 to eight TKAP police forces for nine Portcullis Operations, an intensive enforcement and prevention tactic. Increased police activity has led to 736 arrests, 23 knives and one shotgun being recovered, and over 20,000 people passing through knife arches. In addition, street based teams have worked with over 1,500 young people.

But preventing serious violence is about more than tough enforcement; it is also about prevention. There have been over 22,000 after-school patrols in TKAP areas over the same period, engaging with over 67,000 young people and signposting over 13,000 young people to positive activities.

Where young people have been involved in knife crime, we have worked hard to ensure that they receive appropriate education and rehabilitation to teach them about the dangers of knives. The Youth Justice Board rolled out the knife crime prevention programme to all 97 youth offending teams in the 15 TKAP areas with the aim of reaching 2,000 young people cautioned or convicted of knife crime in the TKAP areas by the end of 2010, to bring home to them the consequences of carrying a knife.

All of this activity to tackle serious youth violence will not stop at the end of TKAP 2. A third phase of TKAP begins on 1 April 2010 aiming to continue our work to keep young people safe. TKAP 3 will make £5.5 million of Government funding available to local TKAP areas: £4 million to local community safety partnerships, on top of £1.5 million already announced for 150 local voluntary organisations receiving help from the Home Office community fund. In 2010-11, we will focus the TKAP programme on 52 community safety partnerships within 21 police forces. The British Transport Police will receive also TKAP funding and support. Agencies in these local areas know that serious youth violence matters to their communities and they want to do all they can to prevent and reduce it.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Cyber Crime Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): I am today publishing the Government's "Cyber Crime Strategy" (Cm 7842) which sets out the Government's proposals for tackling cyber crime. Copies are available in the Vote Office.

Cyber crime is a large and growing problem. It is responsible for a significant amount of social and economic harm, both financially and through threats to children; and is a threat to confidence both in the provision of services through the internet generally, and in the move of Government services online. As the UK becomes more dependent upon digital services, so the threat to the UK as a whole from cyber crime increases.

The overarching theme of the new strategy is that there is significant scope to extend our response to cyber crime, as part of the overall Government focus on cyber-led by the Office for Cyber Security.

The new strategy has five key elements:

Co-ordination to tackle cyber crime across Government: there is already significant work across Government to tackle cyber crime. We will ensure that there is enhanced leadership to provide a clear focus for cyber crime issues. We will ensure that this work will link closely with the overall cyber security approach set out in the Government's Cyber Security Strategy.

Provision of an effective law enforcement response: We will continue to support all of the existing law enforcements units that respond to cyber crime, and will seek to enhance their operational and intelligence functions through the development of accurate reporting mechanisms for the public.

Raise public confidence: We will strengthen the links with Get Safe Online and with the work done on the "Think U Know" programme run by CEOP, to ensure that the public continue to have accurate information on how to keep themselves safe on line.

Work with industry: We will work with the private sector to prevent e-crime, through the e-crime and disorder reduction partnership, and through the cyber industrial strategy being developed by the OCS.

Work internationally: We will maximise collective efforts overseas — from capacity building through to strengthening multilateral institutions. We will continue to lead efforts to ensure that children are protected online and that there is good co-operation between law enforcement agencies internationally.

Visa Waiver Test

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): Today my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I are announcing the final stage of the UK's first global review of visa regimes in relation to the seven countries of the Eastern Caribbean—Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

A visa regime is a very effective immigration, crime and security control measure. As part of our overseas defences our visa waiver test helps us determine whether our visa regimes are in the right places. Travellers from every country beyond the European economic area and Switzerland were measured against a range of criteria including illegal immigration, crime and security concerns. The test has been taken forward in close collaboration with other Departments across Whitehall. New full visa regimes were introduced on Bolivia, Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland, along with a partial regime on Venezuela, in 2009.

Having initially considered the Eastern Caribbean states on a regional basis, we decided to examine them individually to ensure any potential regimes would be aligned correctly. Our evaluation highlighted a number of concerns with two countries, Dominica and St. Lucia.

We recognise that we have close historic, economic and political ties with Dominica and St. Lucia and are aware that the introduction of a visa regime would be a significant step. It is a decision we do not take lightly. As a result we will now enter a six-month period of detailed dialogue with the Governments concerned to examine what actions will be taken to address our concerns and mitigate the need for a visa regime to be introduced. During this period, Dominica and St. Lucia will need to demonstrate a genuine commitment to put into effect credible and realistic plans, with clear timetables, to reduce the risks to the UK, and begin implementing these plans by the end of the dialogue period.

Additionally we have written to the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to advise that, while they will maintain their visa-free status for the time being, the decision will be subject to a further review.

The UK Government remain committed to operating a firm but fair immigration policy. It gives a high priority to treating all foreign nationals coming to or present in the UK with dignity and respect, and the highest legal standards. However, it expects all visitors to the UK to play by the rules. The UK will always welcome genuine visitors, whether business, tourist, student or family, but will continue to take all steps necessary to protect the security of the UK.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

HIV Prevention (East and Southern Africa)

The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): On 9 March I hosted a high-level meeting in the Houses of Parliament in London to review progress towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in East and Southern Africa, where there are high or rising HIV prevalence rates and AIDS remains a major health and economic burden.

Around 50 HIV leaders attended, including representatives from Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Ministers of Health and Gender, religious leaders, activists, people living with HIV, the heads of the Global Fund, PEPFAR, UNAIDS were present, as well as representatives of other donors and the pharmaceutical industry. We were delighted that a representative of the Canadian High Commission in London was able to attend and contribute.

In 2005, through our presidencies of the G8 and the European Union, the UK-led the world in a commitment to the historic goal of universal access. The UK is the second largest donor to the AIDS response globally and we continue to show leadership and commitment. This high-level meeting aimed to keep universal access high on the international agenda during 2010 and beyond.

At the meeting, participants spoke about the key factors that have led to progress at country level, the major challenges ahead and what needs to be done to accelerate progress towards the universal access goals.

The meeting celebrated successes but highlighted the need to provide HIV treatment for the estimated 10 million people still waiting for it, and "turn off the tap" of new HIV infections through evidence and rights-based interventions. Transforming harmful gender norms and stopping violence against women is central to achieving universal access. The group recognised the need for health systems that effectively deliver both maternal, newborn and child health services and services for women, men and children who are vulnerable to and living with HIV. We need to integrate efforts to achieve MDGs 4, 5 and 6. To achieve this we need financing for scale-up, through the Global Fund and other mechanisms. But equally we need leadership—political and at all levels of society.

The meeting resulted in a declaration of shared principles that calls for:

G8 countries to recognise the devastating impact that unmet financial commitments have on global health, and to deliver their financial pledges to the global fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria.

G20 countries and emerging economies to do more to fight global poverty by adopting the global poverty targets agreed by the G8 at Gleneagles in 2005, including financial contribution to the global fund for HIV, TB and Malaria.

Southern and Eastern African countries: to put human rights and the need to reach marginalised groups and those most at risk at the heart of country-led efforts to tackle HIV and AIDS.

Pharmaceutical industry: to help avert a treatment crisis by signing up to the UNITAID patent pool to make effective drugs affordable for developing countries.

I will place a copy of the "Shared Principles" in the Library. I am grateful to the all-party parliamentary group on AIDS for their support to this event.

World Bank

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): Today my department has published the annual review of DFID's works with the World Bank "The UK and the World Bank 2009".

This report reviews the UK's work with the World Bank from December 2008 to 2009. During that period we saw the effects of the financial crisis spread to the developing world. The report looks at how the World Bank was able to assist developing countries facing the impact of the financial crisis, as well as other major issues on which DFID has worked with the World Bank:

the bank's response to the financial crisis;

progress on World Bank reform;

a review of the performance of the bank's work in the poorest countries;

an assessment of progress against the Government's high-level objectives for the bank; and

priorities for engaging with the bank in 2010.

The report has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and an electronically accessible version is available on the DFID website at: www.dfid.gov.uk

JUSTICE

Freedom of Information Act (Designation of Public Authorities)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): On 16 July 2009, I announced to this House the Government's intention to consult directly academy schools, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Financial Ombudsman Service and the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) with a view to including them within the Freedom of Information Act ("the Act") by bringing forward a section 5 order under that Act.

Since this Government introduced the Act in 2005, it has given the public access to information held by over 100,000 public authorities. Section 5 of the Act gives the Secretary of State the power to make an order designating new bodies as public authorities for the purposes of the Act where those bodies appear to him to perform functions of a public nature. In accordance with our continuing commitment to openness and accountability in public life, I wish to announce to the House today the decision to extend the Act to all of the bodies consulted, insofar as they perform public functions.

Having carefully considered all the evidence it is clear that all of the bodies listed above perform functions of a public nature. I have written to each of the bodies to explain the decision in detail, and to identify the functions to which the Act will apply. However the reasons in brief are as follows:

ACPO's functions are concerned with providing leadership for the police force, improving policing, acting as a voice for the force, encouraging high standards of performance and development, providing the strategic police response in times of national need and other ancillary and related functions. Policing is clearly recognised as a function of a public nature. For these reasons it is appropriate to include ACPO in a section 5 order for all of its functions.

The Financial Ombudsman Service resolves disputes between consumers and providers of financial services. It was established under a statutory scheme in order to provide consumers with a quick and informal alternative to the courts. We consider that the functions of FOS appear to be functions of a public nature and that it would be appropriate to include its in a section 5 order.

UCAS provides its member university and colleges with admissions services. Without such services, those institutions—which are bodies listed as public authorities in either the Freedom of Information Act or the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act—would need to perform these functions for themselves, and the information would be captured by those Acts. As UCAS provides these services on behalf of its members, it is clear that UCAS does perform a function of a public nature.

Finally, although independent of local authority control, academies are publicly funded schools and a part of the state education system. Provision of state education is clearly a public function and parents and local residents should be able to access the same kind of information about academy schools as for any other state-funded school. The Academy Trust, is the body responsible for the running of the academy school. In our view, the public functions of academies are those set out in the funding agreement signed between the Academy Trust and the Department for Children, Schools and Families: in short, the establishment, maintenance and carrying on of an academy. We propose to include Academy Trusts in a section 5 order for these purposes from the point at which they enter into funding agreements.

The order will be laid and debated at the earliest possible opportunity in the next parliamentary session, with the intention that it will commence in October 2011.

Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I am today pleased to announce the appointment of Louise Casey as Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses.

The Victims Commissioner's key objectives, as defined in Coroners and Justice Act 2009, are to:

promote the interests of victims and witnesses;

encourage good practice in the treatment of victims and witnesses; and

keep under review the operation of the code of practice for victims.

Additionally, the Victims' Commissioner will chair the Victims' Advisory Panel.

The Victims' Commissioner is an independent role appointed through an open recruitment exercise. Although this was not formally an Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) process, the appointment was made in accordance with OCPA principles. The Commissioner will make an annual report to the three Criminal Justice Ministers and will be accountable to parliament as chair of the Victims' Advisory Panel—victims of crime who advise ministers on how we can do things better.

Probation Trusts

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle): I wish to inform the House that from 1 April 2010, there will be established 29 further probation trusts operating in England and Wales. This brings to 35 the total number of probation trusts and means the dissolution of the last remaining local probation boards.

The trusts programme has presented a challenge to the probation service to demonstrate that it can deliver locally tailored services efficiently and effectively. I am pleased that all of the remaining probation areas have successfully met this challenge and I am confident that they will all be successful in realising the benefits they have identified in moving to trust status.

Funding of Political Parties (Inter-Party Talks)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): At the request of Sir Hayden Phillips, and on his behalf, I am today placing in the Library of the House the agendas, papers and minutes for the five meetings which he chaired and which were attended by representatives of the three main parties in 2007 on the Funding of Political Parties. These items are also being placed on the Ministry of Justice website, at: www.justice.gov.uk.

Sir Hayden has asked me to say that, as far as the minutes of the meetings are concerned, only those of the first meeting were agreed by the parties. The other four were drafts from the secretariat to the talks, authorised for circulation and comment to the parties by Sir Hayden. The agendas, papers and minutes are released in their entirety. There is one substantive exception to this: a paper produced following the fourth session of the talks which contained legal advice from Ministry of Justice

officials on donation caps. The advice was given in confidence and Sir Hayden judges he should respect that. However Sir Hayden wishes to make it clear that the content of the advice relates to the lawfulness of a proposal to impose a cap on political donations, and the advice given was that a cap was capable of being compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights, provided that it was prescribed by law and sought to achieve a legitimate aim in a proportionate way. The CVs of two advisers to the talks have also been removed as they do not relate to the substantive discussions.

Public Inquiry (Azelle Rodney)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I am announcing today the Government's intention to establish an inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005 to investigate the death of Azelle Rodney in April 2005. The inquiry will be established by the Ministry of Justice

It is intended that this inquiry will be chaired by a retired judge and that, subject to his or her views, it will determine the matters which an Article 2 compliant inquest would have determined had it been able to take place. These are: how, when and where Mr. Rodney died, and the broad circumstances which led to his death.

The inquest into the death has been adjourned by the north London coroner since August 2007. The coroner and, most importantly, the bereaved relatives of Mr. Rodney have been given advance notice of this decision.

During debate on the Coroners and Justice Bill, I said that any inquiry established because an inquest cannot be held would be subject to a protocol between Ministers and the senior judiciary. This protocol is intended to cover the procedure from the point the inquest cannot continue until when the inquiry is established.

I have been working with colleagues across Government on the terms of the protocol but it has raised some complex issues and is not yet ready for use. As the inquest into Mr. Rodney's death is already adjourned and cannot continue, I have decided that an inquiry should be established to avoid further delay for Mr. Rodney's family. A further announcement on the inquiry chair and its terms of reference will be made as soon as possible.

Constitutional Reform

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): The Government are publishing today two reports on important aspects of constitutional reform. The first is a summary of responses to the Green Paper, "Rights and Responsibilities: developing our constitutional framework". The second is an independent analysis of the programme of deliberation that was carried out between October 2009 and February 2010 on identity, values (including a statement of values), a Bill of rights and responsibilities and a written constitution.

The reports bring to a conclusion key aspects of the first stage of public debate initiated by "The Governance of Britain" Green Paper in July 2007. They also meet the commitment in "Building Britain's Future" to complete a national consultation on a Bill of rights and responsibilities during 2009-10.

The responses to the Green Paper, combined with the programme of deliberative research, reflect the views of around 2,500 people. They demonstrate an appetite for further debate about a Bill of rights and responsibilities, as well as a broader range of constitutional issues such as statement of values and for making progress on them.

The programme placed public deliberation at the heart of decision making. The research was carried out independently—ensuring that the public were given the opportunity to debate issues in a balanced way, exposing them to views from across the political spectrum to inform their deliberations; and providing a space to enable views to influence policy. As the independent analysis says:

> "The study can be viewed as a constitutional experiment in deliberative democracy—with the deliberative method helping to inform representative systems of government and promote democratic legitimacy. This approach was not intended to replace representative democracy but to complement it—enabling participants to come to an informed view on policy; which in turn, and alongside other evidence, will inform the views of decision makers in Government.

As part of the process the Government made an explicit commitment to participants that any constitutional reform would only progress if there was sufficient public appetite.

The independent report shows that such deliberative approaches were valued by what were demographically-representative groups of participants as a means of building public views into policy making. It shows there is a clear appetite to take further these aspects of the debate on constitutional reform: stating the values that bind us together as a nation, building on the existing protections for individual rights and clarifying our responsibilities.

The Government believe that work taken forward in this area must reflect the approach adopted so far, putting the public at the heart of policy formation.

In taking forward work on a new Bill of rights and responsibilities, the Government remain committed to the Human Rights Act and the protections and remedies provided by it. It is encouraging to see the responses to the Green Paper support the Government's view on this point. The Government are proud of the Human Rights Act and will not resile from it.

Copies of "Rights and Responsibilities: developing our constitutional framework—Summary of responses" have been laid before Parliament. Copies of "People and power: shaping democracy, rights and responsibilities" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Highways Agency (Business Plan Target)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): The Highways Agency's business plan target for the programme of national schemes in the development phase, contained in the Highways Agency business plan 2009-10, has been revised so as to remove the following target at Annexe B:

Major Projects—Development: For the programme of national schemes in the Development Phase, progress these projects by an average of at least 37 percentage points through this phase.

This has been replaced with the following target:

Major Projects—Development: For the programme of national schemes in the Development Phase, progress these projects by an average of at least 35.7 percentage points through this phase.

Severe Winter Weather (Lessons Learned)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

I am announcing today an independent review of the transport sector's response to the severe weather experienced this winter 2009-10 and lessons for the future.

The winter of 2009-10 has seen the most prolonged period of sub-zero temperatures for 30 years, creating extremely challenging conditions for the travelling public. For the most part, our transport networks coped well in the circumstances. However, there are lessons that can be learned in order to improve our resilience for future winters.

This winter, the Salt Cell successfully achieved its objective of prioritising salt deliveries to highway authorities across the country to minimise disruption to transport networks. The Salt Cell held its final meeting on 16 March. Since it was first convened on 6 January, the Salt Cell met 20 times and advised salt suppliers on the distribution of approximately 530,000 tonnes of salt.

Now that the severe weather has receded, we must focus our attention on learning the lessons presented by this winter. The aim of this exercise will be to identify practical measures to improve the response of transport systems to severe winter weather. The work will review and build upon the recommendations of the UK Roads Liaison Group "Lessons from the Severe Weather February 2009" and present a series of practical measures that authorities must consider for implementation better to prepare themselves for winter 2010-11 and beyond.

The review is part of a Government drive to ensure that local authorities are prepared for future severe weather. Last week the Government announced an additional £100 million for local authorities to help pay for repairs to potholes. This builds on the trebling of funding to local authorities over the last 10 years for road maintenance from £265 million in 2000-01 to £809 million in 2010-11.

The review will be led by a small panel of independent experts comprising:

David Quarmby CBE (chair), currently chair of the RAC Foundation and former chief executive of the Strategic Rail Authority;

Brian Smith, retiring as assistant chief executive of Cambridgeshire county council on 31 March; and

Chris Green, a non-executive director of Network Rail, former chief executive of Virgin Trains and English Heritage.

During the review, the panel will be seeking evidence and views from a range of stakeholders in order to develop the detailed scope and identify examples of best practice.

A copy of the terms of reference for the review has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Local Transport Act 2008 (Quality Contracts Schemes)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): The Local Transport Act 2008 includes provisions designed to make bus quality contracts schemes—the London-style model of bus contracts—a more realistic option for local transport authorities throughout England and Wales. The Government announced on 10 December 2009 that these provisions will come into force, in England, on 11 January 2010.

The Government are announcing today the appointment of six individuals to a QCS board panel from which members of QCS boards will be appointed. QCS boards are independent boards with a remit to provide an opinion on whether proposed quality contracts schemes in England meet the statutory public interest criteria, and on whether due process has been followed.

It is also envisaged that QCS board panel members will be called upon to provide advice to traffic commissioners on quality partnership scheme (QPS) "admissible objections".

A QPS is made by a local transport authority, under which the authority provides facilities (for example, bus lanes) and any bus operator wishing to use those facilities must operate services to the standard specified in the scheme.

Following amendments made by the Local Transport Act 2008 to the 2000 Act, a QPS can include requirements about frequencies, timings and maximum fares as part of the "standard of service". But they can do so only if there are no "admissible objections" from relevant bus operators.

In the first instance it is for the local authority to determine whether an operator has an "admissible objection" on either or both of the two grounds set out in regulations. But where there is a disagreement between operator and authority, the objecting operator may refer the matter to a traffic commissioner for an independent determination.

A number of local authorities either have, or are planning, quality partnership schemes.

The panel will comprise:

Andrew Burchell

Currently an "Appeals Decision Maker" for the Department for Transport in respect of concessionary travel appeals from bus operators, Andrew has gained a wide range of skills including as a Government economist, a senior civil servant and member of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' management board. He sits on the community services board of his local primary care trust, as an "independent lay member", and is Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees at his local citizens advice bureau.

Tim Larner

Founding Director of Strata Consultants, Tim has over 35 years' experience of local transport planning, including providing advice to passenger transport executive CEOs as the former Director of the Support Unit at PTEG. He has worked to raise the profile of PTEs, highlighting their role in transport policy development.

Peter Hardy

A Project Director at JMP Consultants, Peter has 26 years experience in transport planning starting in a local authority environment and specialising in areas including passenger transport development, policy and strategy for both the public and private sectors.

James Reeves

Currently Technical Director for Gifford UK, James has worked extensively in the transport sector both in the UK and abroad. Including a period as a local authority officer, he has experience in transport economics and planning.

Alan Wann

Former roles at Northumberland county council include Head of Highways, Transport and Waste services; Head of Regeneration; and Principal Adviser to the Chief Executive. Alan has recently become an independent consultant specialising in sustainable economic, social and cultural regeneration.

David Humphrey

Recently retired after 42 years in the public transport industry, David has held a number of senior roles in both the bus and tram sectors. A former President of the Confederation of Passenger Transport, he is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport.

A further two candidates will be held in reserve.

Motoring and Freight Services (Ministerial Targets)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): A range of high-level targets for the 2010-11 year has been set on behalf of the agencies within the Motoring and Freight Services Group: the Driving Standards Agency, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Vehicle Certification Agency, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and the Government Car and Despatch Agency. They are included in the agencies' business plans together with their associated measures. The plans also include a range of management targets, performance indicators and key tasks which are appropriate to the agencies' businesses. Copies of the business plans will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses shortly.

The key targets for the Driving Standards Agency are:

Secretary of State Targets
Maintain the integrity and quality of the driving test by supervision of 95 per cent. of examiners including delegated examiners and conducting a rolling programme of 120 quality assurance visits
To strengthen and modernise the way that people learn to drive we will: Develop proposals to modernise the driver training profession based on a syllabus and competence framework by September 2010; and Develop the research element of stage 1 of the learning trial by March 2011
Introduce an assessment of competence while driving independently across all main practical tests by October 2010
Make appointments available within nine weeks at permanent car driving test centres—90 per cent.
Deliver the customer promises as set out in the agency business plan by March 2011
Achieve an additional £2 million of financial efficiency savings during 2010-11
Deliver agreed financial plan in 2010-11

The key targets for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency are:

Secretary of State Targets
Maintain the accuracy of the vehicle register so that a registered keeper can be traced from details held on record in 95 per cent. of cases
Deliver the eight DFT customer promises
Complete achievement of the £80.7 million three-year target of efficiency savings for 2008-2011 by saving £36.2 million in 2010-11
Deliver financial performance agreed with DFT to at least balance income against expenditure for the 2010-11 year-end accounts
Collect over £5 billion of VED (net of refunds) and through enforcement action exceed £100 million in additional VED collected for the period 2008-11
Introduce continuous insurance enforcement (CIE) and have started to issue insurance advisory letters by 31 March 2011

The key targets for the Vehicle Certification Agency are:

Secretary of State Targets
Complete 90 per cent of system and component type approval certificates within nine working days
99 per cent. of appraisal reports on our technical performance from independent panel members deemed to have no critical defects. (NB. suitable sample size to be determined)
To ensure the continued consistency and quality of VCA's approvals by Carrying out a programme of conformity of production assessments for VCA-issued approvals using the risk-based methodology in line with the agreed programme. Dangerous Goods packaging—carrying out a programme of conformity of production inspections in accordance with the service level agreement agreed with the Department.
Deliver the customer service promises as set out in this business plan
Continue the development of the systems and tools designed to assist existing and new manufacturers to comply with the revised type approval requirements for new vehicle types due to be included in 2010-11, by 31 October 2010.
Deliver the agreed testing, enforcement and in-service emission programmes by 31 March 2011 (NB. In-year milestones to be developed and agreed).
Achieve repeatable financial efficiency savings during 2010-11 in line with CSR07 efficiency delivery plan.
To achieve a £50,000 surplus on a full-cost basis

The key targets for the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency are:

Secretary of State Targets
Obtain agreement of and detailed plan for testing transformation: Obtain agreement to detailed plans for transferring testing to authorised testing facilities (ATFs) in 20 catchment areas; and Carry out sufficient marketing to deliver 40 new operational non-VOSA sites by 31/03/11
Deliver the eight customer service promises as set out in the VOSA Business Plan
In partnership with DFT (IHAC and LRI), determine a methodology to develop—and subsequently agree with DFT—an informed three-year target to 2013-14 to maintain or improve the trajectory of compliance with roadworthiness and traffic rules, using data gathered from past and future fleet compliance surveys
• Deliver agreed financial plan for 2010-11
• Achieve £2.6 million financial efficiency savings during 2010-11 as part of the comprehensive spending review delivery plan

The key targets for the Government Car and Despatch Agency are:

Secretary of State Targets
To maintain accreditation for ISO 9001. The quality of service is measured by means of ISO 9001, the internationally recognised standard for quality management systems
To achieve scheduled mail collections and deliveries on a daily basis—99 per cent.
Maintain the average tailpipe emissions of the Government car fleet—130g/km
Deliver the eight customer service promises as set out in the agency business plan
Achieve financial efficiency savings of £0.5 million during 2010-11 as part of the CSR efficiency delivery plan
Deliver financial performance in line with business plan

WORK AND PENSIONS

Executive Agencies and Crown Non-departmental Public Bodies

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): I am today able to announce the annual performance targets in 2010-11 for the executive agencies of the Department for Work and Pensions and of our crown Non-departmental Public Bodies—the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and the Health and Safety Executive. The targets I have agreed are set out below.

Further information on the plans of the Department, its executive agencies and crown Non-departmental Public Bodies for 2010-11 is contained in their individual business plans which have been published today. Electronic copies have been deposited in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus's 2010-11 targets are:

Target description	*2010-11 Target Level*
Job Outcome Target[1]	11.47 million
Interventions Delivery Target[2]	85%
Employer Engagement Target[3]	91%
Customer Service Target[4]	86%
Fraud and Error[5]	To play a key role to prevent and detect overpayments and underpayments of benefit consistent with the Department's aim to reduce total overpaid expenditure across all benefits to 1.8%, and underpaid expenditure to 0.7%, of total benefit expenditure by March 2011. By March 2011, to ensure that losses from fraud and error in working age Income Support and Jobseeker's Allowance amounts to less than 4.2% of overall expenditure
Average Actual Clearance Time	
Jobseeker's Allowance	11 days
Income Support	9 days
Employment and Support Allowance	14 days

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service targets for 2010-11 are:

Target description	*2010-11 Target Level*
Pension Credit: take-up of new claims	180,000 successful new Pension Credit applications[6]
Accuracy of decisions	Attendance Allowance 94% Carers Allowance 98% Disability Living Allowance 94% Pension Credit new claims and changes of circumstance 94% State Pension new claims and changes of circumstance 98%
Average processing time for new claims	Attendance Allowance within 16 days Carers Allowance within 13 days Disability Living Allowance within 37.7 days Pension Credit (from the date evidence received) within 15 days State Pension to clear 95% of new claims within 60 days
Reduce Fraud and Error in Pension Credit	3.9% by March 2011
Telephony	At least 93% of calls to be answered first time with less than 1% receiving the engaged tone

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's 2010-11 targets are;

Target description	*2010-11 target level*
Number of children benefiting from an arrangement made through the statutory schemes or a private arrangement after contact with the Child Maintenance Options service	950,000 children benefiting
Amount collected or arranged through the statutory maintenance scheme	£1.135bn
Maintenance outcomes: the proportion of people with a statutory maintenance liability paying child maintenance	76%

The Health and Safety Executive's outcome targets consist of the 2008-11 Departmental Strategic Objective3 indicators that reflect direction of travel and the 2000-10 Revitalising Health and Safety numerical targets. The latter are:

Target description	*2010-11 Target level*[7]
Reduce the incidence rates of cases of work-related ill health from a June 2000 baseline	reduce by 22%

Target description	*2010-11 Target level*[1]
Reduce the incidence rate of fatalities and major injury accidents from a June 2000 baseline	reduce by 11%

[1]Shared with the Employment Group who have responsibility for delivery of Employment Programmes.
[2]An average of two elements: conducting 83% of Income Support lone parent work-focused reviews within 3 months of when they are due and 87% of JSA interviews within 6 weeks of when they are due.
[3]Employers placing their vacancies with Jobcentre Plus to have a positive outcome.
[4]Assessed against the Department's Customer Charter service standards of 'Right Treatment', 'Right Result', 'On Time' and 'Easy Access'.
[5]Jobcentre Plus and the Department are jointly responsible for this target. Jobcentre Plus monitors an internal operational target designed to mitigate the risk of fraud and error entering the system.
[6]The Agency will monitor data through the first part of the year and adjust the target level if necessary on the basis of actual volumes processed.
[7]Extrapolated from the respective 20% and 10% target reductions for the original 2000-10 Revitalising Health and Safety (RHS) period.

Construction: Fatal Accidents

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Yvette Cooper): I am pleased to announce the publication of the Government's response to Rita Donaghy's report into the underlying causes of fatal construction accidents.

The UK is rightly regarded as having one of the best health and safety records in the world. Since 1997-98 the rate of fatal injuries to workers has fallen by 40 per cent., including in the construction sector, reflecting the significant focus on improving safety by the Health and Safety Executive, local authorities, businesses and trades unions. While this is very welcome, every death is one too many and a tragedy to those involved and their families. The Government believe that more must be done.

The number of deaths in the construction industry has been a particular cause of concern, with the rate of fatal accidents four times that of other industries. While there have been important improvements, 53 construction workers were still killed in 2008-09, for example. We therefore asked Rita Donaghy to carry out a review into the causes of construction fatalities.

On the 8 July 2009 I announced the publication of Rita Donaghy's report. The report contained 28 far-reaching recommendations for improving safety in the construction industry, extending across safety representatives, building control, the legal system, training and competence, and public procurement. I would again like to thank Rita Donaghy and her team for their excellent work in undertaking the inquiry.

We are publishing now our response which builds on the issues and analysis within Rita Donaghy's report to provide a framework for delivery of improvements in these areas. Our response reflects widespread consultation across Government and with stakeholders. The Government fully accept 23 of the 28 recommendations including support of common minimum standards throughout publicly funded construction projects; mutual recognition between pre-qualification schemes; and support for greater worker participation. Two further recommendations related to the extension of gangmaster licensing regulations and the introduction of positive duties on directors raise important issues and warrant further consideration. Additional work is required to explore fully the relative options and understand the potential impact of introducing such measures. The reasons for these decisions are detailed within the response.

I hope that the action set out in the response improves further the safety record in the construction sector and provides some comfort to the families of those who have been killed by construction-related accidents.

This response is not an end in itself though, and we must continue to work together—Government, business, unions and workers—if we are to ensure that jobs in construction are as safe as any other.

The Government's response (Cm 7828) has been laid before Parliament and will be published later today. Copies of the response will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. It is also available on the DWP website at www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/policy-publications/fatal-accidents-inquiry.shtml.

Social Fund Allocations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Helen Goodman): I am pleased to announce that the gross discretionary social fund budget for 2010-11 will be £802 million.

With the net funding available, I have been able to allocate a gross national SF loans budget of £660 million and a national community care grants budget of £141 million from 1 April 2010.

The net funding available includes £141.5 million additional loans funding for 2010-11 only.

I will allocate a gross national SF loans budget in line with the provisions in the Welfare Reform Act 2007. The aim is to control and manage the national allocation while providing consistency of outcomes for budgeting loan applicants wherever they live. All loans budget expenditure will be made from the gross national loans budget of £660 million. Concerns have been raised by stakeholders about the current methodology of allocating community care grants and these will be considered as part of the reform process that was announced on 15 March 2010 in the "Social Fund Reform: debt, credit and low-income households" consultation paper Cm 7750.

To provide help to Jobcentre Plus budgets facing unexpected and unplanned expenditure I will retain centrally £1 million as a contingency reserve.

Details of individual community care grant allocations will be placed in the Library.

Background note about the discretionary Social Fund Budget

The discretionary social fund budget is cash limited. Funding for community care grants is allocated to each budget area for management by Jobcentre Plus social

fund benefit delivery centres on 1 April each year. The gross discretionary social fund budget allocated for 2010-11 is £802 million. This is made up of:

New money (net AME)—£319.7 million

Forecast loan recovery—£482.3 million

This is to be allocated as follows:

Loans—£660 million

Grants—£141 million

Contingency reserve—£1 million

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 6 April 2010

TREASURY

Asset Protection Agency

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): On 7 December 2009 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the launch of the Asset Protection Agency (APA), an Executive Agency of HM Treasury.

The role of the APA and relationship with HM Treasury has been set out in the APA framework document, copies of which were deposited in the Libraries of both Houses at the time of the announcement.

After careful consideration of the APA's activities in managing the Asset Protection Scheme ("the Scheme") since its launch, the Chancellor has decided on a further delegation of decision making to them from HM Treasury. Previously the APA were authorised to make decisions or exercise rights delegated to them in furtherance of the asset management objective. Under the new delegation they will also be able to consider the reduction of risk to the taxpayer when making decisions or exercising any of the rights that have been delegated to them.

This change reflects our continued commitment to run the scheme efficiently and ensure tight management of the taxpayer's risk.

An amended framework document that reflects this change has been published today and deposited in the Libraries of both Houses. The document is also accessible via the HM Treasury website: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

Building Society Capital

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): The Government have published a discussion paper on building society capital and related issues, as announced in the Budget 2010. It will be available from the House Libraries from today and is on the Treasury website.

The discussion paper seeks views on the issues raised by the building societies experts' group convened by the Government in 2009, including future options for capital raising by building societies in the light of ongoing regulatory reform.

Double Taxation Agreement (United Kingdom and Germany)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): A Double Taxation Agreement with Germany was signed on 30 March 2010. The text of the agreement has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

Valuation Office Agency (KPI)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): I have today set the following key performance indicators for the Valuation Office Agency for 2010-11:

Customer Satisfaction

To achieve overall customer satisfaction of 90 per cent.

Operations

To determine 95 per cent. of housing benefit claims where no inspection is required in three working days.

To enable prompt issue of tax assessments, for inheritance tax and capital gains tax, by clearing all HMRC initial appraisal cases within an average of five days.

To contain reductions in the 2005 rating lists to a maximum of 4.2 per cent. of the total compiled list rateable value, over the entire life of the lists.

To contain reductions in the 2010 rating lists to a maximum of 3.6 per cent. of the total compiled list rateable value, over the entire life of the lists.

To ensure that 96 per cent. of new council tax bandings are right first time.

To complete the compliance reviews of broad rental market areas in England for local housing allowance purposes.

To achieve income from non-statutory services of at least £19 million.

Value for Money

To improve overall value for money on local taxation work by 3 per cent. a year.

To achieve full cost recovery reflecting a 5 per cent. reduction in budget for the year on all work for HMRC.

Security

To have zero data incidents reportable to the Information Commissioner.

Counter-Terrorist Asset-Freezing Regime (January to March 2010)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): In a written ministerial statement on 10 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 11WS, the then Economic Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Normanton (Ed Balls), undertook to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis on the operation of the UK's counter-terrorism asset-freezing regime. This is the 14th of these reports and covers the period January to March 2010[1].

Asset-freezing designations

In the quarter January to March 2010, the Treasury issued no directions designating persons under the Al-Qaeda and Taliban (United Nations Measures) Order 2006. As a result of the quashing of this order, the one extant direction under the order has no effect.

During this quarter, the Treasury gave no new directions under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009.

There were no financial sanctions designations of persons with links to the UK made at the UN or at the EU, in relation to the Terrorism or Al-Qaeda and the Taliban asset-freezing regimes.

As of 31 March 2010, a total of 226 accounts containing just over £370,000[2] of suspected terrorist funds were frozen in the UK.

Reviews under the Terrorism Order 2006

The Treasury keeps domestic asset-freezing cases under review and completed three reviews in this quarter. All three persons had their designation revoked.

Licensing

Maintaining an effective licensing system is important to ensure the overall proportionality and fairness of the asset-freezing regime, whether the individuals concerned are subject to an asset freeze in accordance with a UN or EC listing, or domestic terrorism legislation. A licensing framework is put in place for each individual on a case-by-case basis. The key objective of the licensing system is to strike an appropriate balance between minimising the risk of diversion of funds to terrorism and meeting the human rights and humanitarian needs of affected individuals and their families.

Twenty-four licences were issued this quarter in relation to 15 individuals and/or entities subject to an asset freeze under the al-Qaeda and Taliban and Terrorism regimes.

Proceedings

On 9 February 2010, during the debate on the Terrorist Asset-Freezing (Temporary Provisions) Bill, the Treasury committed to reporting on proceedings taken for any offences under the asset-freezing regime.

In the quarter January to March 2010, there have been no proceedings taken for breaches of the prohibitions of the Terrorism orders or the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Order.

Developments

The Supreme Court Judgment and the Terrorist Asset-Freezing (Temporary Provisions) Act 2010: As referred to in the 13th quarterly report to Parliament for the period October to December 2009, on 4 February 2010 the Supreme Court quashed the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006. The Government fast-tracked temporary legislation to prevent suspected terrorists' assets from being unfrozen. The Terrorist Asset-Freezing (Temporary Provisions) Act 2010 came into force on 10 February 2010 and temporarily validates the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Orders 2009, 2006 and 2001, ensuring that asset freezes under those orders remain in place. The Act expires on 31 December 2010. Before then, the Government intend to introduce more permanent legislation that will establish the terrorist asset-freezing regime in primary legislation. A draft of the legislation, the Terrorist Asset-Freezing Bill, was published on 5 February 2010. The Bill can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_sanctions_terrorist_assetfreezingbill.htm

On 11 March 2010, the Government published a public consultation document which sets out the Government's approach to terrorist asset freezing and their proposals for more permanent terrorist asset-freezing legislation and seeks the views of the public and other interested parties on the proposals. The consultation document can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_liveindex.htm

Al-Qaeda and Taliban (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2010: On 4 February 2010, the Supreme Court also quashed the Al-Qaeda and Taliban Order. Assets previously frozen under that order remain frozen under EC Regulation 881/2002. The EC regulation is directly applicable in UK law, but secondary legislation is required to provide for penalties for failing to comply with the prohibitions in the EC regulation and to establish a UK framework for the effective administration of asset freezes against persons listed by the EU as being associated with al-Qaeda or the Taliban.

In order to put in place penalties and establish such a framework, the Government laid new regulations before Parliament, the Al-Qaeda and Taliban (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2010.

The regulations were laid on 25 February 2010 and debated in the House of Lords on 25 March and in the House of Commons on 30 March. They came into effect at midnight on 31 March.

[1]The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2]This figure reflects account balances at time of freezing and includes approximately $58,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using exchange rates as of 30/03/10. Future fluctuations in the exchange rate may impact on the contribution this sum makes to future totals of suspected terrorist funds frozen.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Investments (Revised Guidance)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Barbara Follett): The Government are grateful for the Communities and Local Government Committee's second report of session 2009-10, "Local authority investments: the role of the Financial Services Authority".

The Committee's primary recommendation is that—

"the Government bring forward the necessary legislative changes to place within the remit of the Financial Services Authority the provision of advice or information relating to deposit taking..." (paragraph 16).

Having carefully considered the recommendation, the Government are not persuaded that such a course would be appropriate. The Department for Communities and Local Government has issued revised statutory guidance on investments that came into force on 1 April 2010. This includes a new recommendation that authorities' investment strategies should comment on their use of Treasury management advisers. This will encourage officers to make explicit their procedures for using advisers and will give elected Members the opportunity to scrutinise those arrangements.

The revised "Guidance on Local Government Investments" is available at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1501971.pdf

Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Library of the House.

Sustainable Communities Act

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham): I am today updating the House on progress the Government have made in implementing the Sustainable Communities Act 2007.

The Government remain committed to the Sustainable Communities Act. Local authorities put forward proposals to improve their local area to the Local Government Association (LGA), in its capacity as the selector, last summer. In December the LGA produced a shortlist of 199 proposals which Government are required to consider and respond to under the Act. The Government are working to try to reach agreement with the LGA on which proposals should be implemented. My officials

worked very closely with their counterparts from the LGA to set up three discussion panels which provided an opportunity for the proposals to be discussed in further detail between LGA and Government officials. These panel meetings proved to be very helpful in clarifying issues behind proposals from both a Government and LGA perspective and gathering further useful evidence. Consideration of the proposals is ongoing with other Whitehall Departments. Many of the proposals are complex and the Government are investigating further issues raised by the LGA as part of the process. Once again I would like to thank the LGA for their continuing efforts in assisting the Government in this significant task.

In the meantime, I am pleased to inform the House that the Government will be taking action to make progress with the following proposals:

The London borough of Islington asked the Government to make it compulsory for owners of empty business premises (mainly shops) to talk to councils about the possibility of premises being used by the community, if they have been empty for six months. In response we will carry out a consultation, involving Islington and other relevant stakeholders, looking at the challenges behind engaging with landlords and owners.

Wirral metropolitan borough council and South Hams district council asked for communities to have the right to buy privately or publicly owned assets put up for sale in order to develop opportunities for communities to buy redundant buildings and land for community benefit. The Government will undertake an investigation into the challenges and barriers that a community right to buy approach would solve and what other solutions would help.

The London borough of Redbridge, who suggested relaxing the rules on the illumination of some road signs to reduce costs of installation, maintenance, energy consumption and light pollution. The Government are now considering further relaxations to lighting requirements beyond those they made in their 2002 review on this matter and will be undertaking further research into lighting through the national traffic signs policy review to assess the relative performances of lit and unlit signs in a number of environments.

Brighton and Hove city council put forward a proposal requesting a freedom that would allow surplus produce from allotments to be sold to local markets and shops. In response the Government have been able to clarify that there are no legal restrictions on allotment holders selling genuinely surplus produce. This clarification was made on 3 March within a package of measures that set out the Government's support for gardeners and growing food in the community. This package also provided clarification to the London borough of Waltham Forest, Birmingham and Sheffield city councils, who have also put forward proposals about allotments under the Act, highlighting existing powers around allotments and the opportunity offered by new "meanwhile" lease arrangements that will make it easier for people to take control of abandoned land while it is waiting to be used.

Newcastle city council, Ryedale district council, and Darlington borough council wanted action to address the problem of large pub and retail companies imposing restrictive covenants on pubs preventing them from operating as pubs when sold. The Ministry of Justice will consult on removing the right of pub owners to impose such restrictions that are leading to pub closure.

Kettering borough council and Redcar and Cleveland borough council asked for changes to rules that would allow the council's community protection officer service to carry out civil and crime related duties in a combined manner without fear of legal challenge and to improve the efficiency and quality of services provided. They want to change the statutory guidance to allow local authorities to employ single teams of wardens capable of dealing with all civil enforcement issues. The Government recognise this issue and the potential benefits of this request and have committed to undertaking a review of the current rules and any changes that may be needed to allow this idea to move forward.

Kent county council asked for recourse to Government funding to build a lorry park with 3,000 parking places to address lorry traffic problems locally which arise when the Kent police implement "Operation Stack" which enables them to close the M20 in order to hold large volumes of freight traffic.

The Department for Transport and Highways Agency are currently reviewing the existing policy (circular 01/2008) on motorway service areas and other roadside facilities on motorways and all-purpose trunk roads and trying to find ways to remove barriers to the development and use of lorry park facilities, rest facilities and improved signing to existing lorry parks. A public consultation on the revised policy is expected to be published within the next few months.

The Government are also looking to review their approach to the use of powers under section 238 of the Highways Act 1980 to promote new roadside facilities for motorists and, in particular, provision for lorry drivers where appropriate to do so. While this will not directly fund developments such as the one proposed by Kent, the approach would help to overcome the hurdle of securing planning approval. Use of these powers would provide an alternative means of securing site approvals. The delivery of the facilities could then be franchised to private operators on a competitive basis which will represent the best outcome for the tax payer in terms of value for money.

There were a number of councils who put forward proposals pressing the Government to focus on improving energy efficiency and incentivising the development of renewable energy within communities. On 2 March we published the "Warm Homes, Greener Homes: A Strategy for Household Energy", which addresses many of the issues raised by the proposals under the SCA. The introduction by the Government of feed-in tariffs in April this year and the launch next April of the renewable heat incentive will also help to address these critical issues.

West Devon borough council, Herefordshire county council and a number of other councils asked for a much wider role for Post Offices in communities including banking and financial services. In response the Prime Minister has already committed to do just that, and as a result we carried out a consultation to find out what people think about existing products and services offered through the Post Office, and our proposals for the future of the Post Office banking. In response to the consultation the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills made an announcement on the 29 March about the sort of services that Post Offices will be offering in the future.

Wiltshire county council asked for the Sustainable Communities Act process to be ongoing or annual. The existing Sustainable Communities Act requires that the process should not be a one-off. CLG officials have, however, been working closely with Local Works on the development of the Sustainable Communities (Amendment) Bill. The Government wholeheartedly support the current draft of the Bill which, if passed by Parliament, will provide a date for the next invitation for proposals to be issued, and will enable the process of submitting and considering proposals to be improved.

The Government continue to assess the 199 proposals on the shortlist submitted by the Local Government Association. I intend to make a formal decision on which proposals the Government believe should be implemented alongside the associated actions the Government will take, later this year.

Planning

The Minister for Housing (John Healey): I am today publishing the Government's response to the consultation conducted last year on Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) which closed on 23 June 2009. The document sets out a summary of the responses received and also confirms both the amount available for HPDG

in 2010-11 and the allocation mechanism for 2010-11 which has been considered in the light of the comments received.

The amount available for local authorities through HPDG will be £146 million, an increase from £135 million paid out in 2009-10. This reflects the importance the Government place on increasing housing supply and increasing the capacity of local authorities to support this by delivering viable land and an efficient planning service. The grant provides a direct incentive for councils to work with partners in the public and private sector to ensure that new homes are built where they are needed. It is additional to mainstream funding and councils have the freedom to decide how best to spend it locally.

In changes to the distribution mechanism we are reducing the threshold of net additional homes needed to qualify for the housing element in recognition of the more challenging conditions in the housing market. We are also introducing additional eligibility requirements for demonstrating land for housing in order to reinforce existing requirements in planning policy statement 3 and increase confidence in the land supply position across the county. This builds on the confirmation set out in the budget that the planning inspectorate will undertake comprehensive checks on land supply and publish the results.

I have placed a copy of the Government's response to the consultation document in the Library of the House. This will also be available on the Communities and Local Government website.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Legal Deposit Libraries (Consultation)

The Minister of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Margaret Hodge): I would like to thank the Legal Deposit Advisory Panel (LDAP) for their recommendations on digital legal deposit and thank everyone who took the time to respond to the consultation.

My Department has received 57 responses to the consultation from a broad range of stakeholders. This shows how important digital legal deposit is. The consultation, as Members may have expected, has brought up many interesting and varying views and ideas on what the regulations should cover.

Since the close of the consultation, LDAP have provided me with their next set of recommendations on UK Commercial and Protected Online Publications.

I will now be considering all the responses we have received and LDAPs latest recommendations with a view to going out to consultation in September on draft regulations and on UK Commercial and Protected Online Publications content.

DEFENCE

Service Medical and Dental Officers (Pay)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The supplement to the 2010 report of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) making recommendations on the pay of service medical and dental officers has been published today. I wish to express my thanks to the chairman and members of the review body for their report.

The AFPRB has recommended no increase in basic military salary for all defence medical services (DMS) accredited consultants and accredited general medical and dental practitioners. The AFPRB has also recommended a 1 per cent. increase for certain non-accredited officers and a 1.5 per cent. increase for junior non-accredited officers and cadets. In addition, the AFPRB recommended no increase in the values of national clinical excellence awards and distinction awards and a 1 per cent. increase for DMS trainer pay and general medical practitioner associate trainer pay.

The AFPRB recommendations are to be accepted in full, except for the 1.5 per cent. recommendation for junior non-accredited officers and cadets, which will be abated to 1 per cent. mirroring the decision on the Doctors and Dentists Review Body recommendation, with implementation effective from 1 April 2010.

Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House.

Gulf Veterans (Mortality Data)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): As part of the Government's continuing commitment to investigate Gulf veterans' illnesses openly and honestly, data on the mortality of veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict are published regularly. The most recent figures for the period 1 April 1991 to 31 December 2009 are published today as a National Statistic Notice on the Defence Analytical Services and Advice website.

The data for Gulf veterans are compared to those of a control group known as the "Era cohort" consisting of armed forces personnel of a similar profile in terms of age, gender, service, regular/reservists status and rank, who were in service on 1 January 1991 but were not deployed to the Gulf. As in the previous release, the "Era" group has been adjusted for a small difference in the age-profile of those aged 40 years and over, to ensure appropriate comparisons.

Key points to note in the data are:

There have been 1,095 deaths among the Gulf veterans and 1,111 in the age-adjusted Era comparison group.

The 1,095 deaths among Gulf veterans compare with approximately 1,828 deaths which would have been expected in a similar sized cohort taken from the general population of the UK with the same age and gender profile. This reflects the strong emphasis on fitness when recruiting and retaining service personnel.

These statistics continue to confirm that UK veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict do not suffer an excess of overall mortality compared with service personnel that did not deploy.

The full notice can be viewed at http://www.dasa.mod.uk

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Beyond Copenhagen (International Climate Change Plan)

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): On 31 March I published "Beyond Copenhagen: The UK Government's International Climate Change Plan" (Cm 7850), setting out the key elements of UK strategy leading up to COP16 in Mexico and beyond.

The strategy reflects the fact there is much unfinished business following the outcome of the Copenhagen climate talks in December 2009. The conference made significant progress in some areas, but did not live up to our expectations, or those of many countries round the world.

"Beyond Copenhagen" argues that we should build on what was achieved at Copenhagen but also go further.

The main achievement at Copenhagen was agreement of the accord. The accord includes commitments to limit global temperature increases to no more than 2° Celsius, to climate finance approaching $30 billion fast-start finance to 2012 with a long-term goal of $100 billion a year by 2020 and for the first time provides a common international framework that includes all the world's major economies. Since the summit more than 70 countries (accounting for around 80 per cent. of global emissions) have put forward mitigation targets and actions which, if they deliver at the high end of their ambitions, would be consistent with global emissions peaking before 2020, an important step towards achieving an emissions trajectory consistent with 2°.

The document affirms the importance of delivering against the commitments made in the accord. This includes commitments on emissions reductions, forestry, measurement, reporting and verification and on finance. It highlights the importance both of getting fast-start finance flowing and also of the work of the UN Secretary-General's high-level advisory group on climate finance, co-chaired by the Prime Minister and Prime Minister Meles of Ethiopia.

The Government continue to believe that this action has to be backed by a comprehensive legally binding agreement. The UK wants to see progress in the United Nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) negotiations towards a legally binding agreement, with progress under the Copenhagen accord built on in the formal negotiations. To ease that process we signal that we would agree to an appropriately designed second Kyoto commitment period provided others enter into a comparable legally binding arrangements.

We also believe we need to strengthen the UNFCCC process and will be working with the Government of Mexico among others to do so.

Copies of "Beyond Copenhagen" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

HEALTH

Skipton Fund (Review)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron): Further to the Government's response to Lord Archer of Sandwell's report on NHS-supplied contaminated blood and blood products, which we published on 20 May 2009, I wish to inform the House that we have decided to bring forward a review of the Skipton fund, which makes ex gratia payments to those infected with hepatitis C as a result of their treatment.

The unintended and tragic consequences of these treatments have seriously impaired the lives of many people, together with those of their families. We have listened carefully to the views of those infected, their families, carers and many in this House, who have told us that our intended review date of 2014 will be too late for many of those affected. Consequently, we have decided that the review will begin as soon as possible this year.

It will be an independently chaired review. The terms of reference, membership and conduct of the review will be agreed in conjunction with the devolved Administrations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to confirm payment of £100,000 to the Haemophilia Society, as promised in our response of 20 May 2009.

I would like to reiterate this Government's sympathy for those affected by these treatments many years ago, before screening tests and methods of viral inactivation became available. We remain fully committed to supporting them in the best way we can.

Government Strategy Document (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen): "Maternity and Early Years—Making a Good Start to Family Life" published on 16 March 2010 contained an error on page 9 regarding the times when babies are offered immunisations. The correct sentence is:

"you will be offered immunisations for your baby when he or she is eight weeks, three months, four months, 12 months and 13 months old".

An erratum note has been placed in the Library and in the copies that are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office. A corrected version of the document is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyandGuidance/DH_114023.

Valuing People Now (Delivery Plan 2010-11)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): I am placing in the Library today "Valuing People Now: The Delivery plan 2010-11" which was published on 31 March 2010, to support the implementation of "Valuing People Now, a new three-year strategy for people with learning disabilities" published in January 2009.

The delivery plan sets out the progress made in the first year. It also recognises that there is still more to do to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities and their family carers. The delivery plan sets out the key priorities for 2010-11, in particular, to improve employment and housing opportunities and better health outcomes for people with learning disabilities and their family carers.

Other materials, including person-centred planning guidance, Valuing Older Family Carers Now, the Valuing People Now Housing Delivery Plan and a range of housing resources are available at www.valuingpeople.gov.uk/dynamic/valuingpeople6.jsp

Copies of "Valuing People Now: The Delivery plan 2010-11" are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Swine Flu Pandemic Response

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): I have previously undertaken to update the House on the negotiations concerning the orders placed by the Government for H1N1 vaccine, at their conclusion. I am pleased to be able to inform the House that we have now reached a mutually satisfactory agreement with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) to limit the Department's orders of swine flu vaccine, and that this settlement will result in savings of around a third of the original value of the total orders with GSK.

I am confident that the negotiated settlement both protects the public purse by obtaining full value for payments made without incurring a cancellation fee and ensures that the United Kingdom remains at the forefront of pandemic preparedness worldwide. The agreement involves the Department taking total deliveries of 34,838,500 doses of Pandemrix, including vaccine received so far. This will allow us to continue with ongoing vaccination programmes and keep a sizeable strategic reserve of vaccine in case the virus mutates. We are also planning to donate 3.8 million doses to the World Health Organisation to boost immunity in Africa before the rainy season.

In addition, the Department will purchase H5N1 "bird flu" vaccine and courses of the antiviral Relenza (to replace the amount of Relenza made available during the response to the swine flu pandemic) as part of the agreement. The probability of a more severe influenza pandemic has not diminished following the swine flu pandemic, and taking measures such as these now will help protect the population in the event of a future pandemic. However, as with other contracts, further details of the agreement are commercially confidential.

This negotiated settlement with GSK follows the decision to cancel the remaining orders with Baxter on 28 February 2010, utilising our break clause in the contract. We entered into more detailed negotiations with GSK because our contract with them did not contain a break clause, in line with their agreements with other countries. These discussions regarding limiting vaccine orders were necessary as our increased understanding of the virus demonstrated that less swine flu vaccines were required. This was partly because the virus has proved mild in most people (although more severe and, tragically, fatal in some instances), but also as scientists established that one dose of the vaccine was sufficient to confer immunity.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Independent Monitoring Commission

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I have today published and laid before Parliament my fifth annual report on the operation of the Agreement between the British and Irish Governments which established the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC). This report covers the period 18 September 2007 to 17 September 2008.

In line with a commitment made by my predecessor, this report also contains the audited accounts of the IMC for the 12-month period ending 31 March 2008.

The report covers the 17th and 18th report on paramilitary activity and the 19th report on the leadership of PIRA and assessment of the completion of the transformation of PIRA. It does not refer to the 20th report on paramilitary activity as this fell outside the 12-month period under review.

I am very grateful to the Commissioners of the IMC for the continued commitment, focus and dedication they have shown during this reporting period, and for their continued efforts in promoting and maintaining a peaceful society and a stable and inclusive devolved Government in Northern Ireland.

SCOTLAND

Commission on Scottish Devolution

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Jim Murphy): The Government welcome the Scottish Affairs Committee's report on the inter-parliamentary recommendations made by the Commission on Scottish Devolution. The commission, established by the Scottish Parliament in December 2007 and supported by the UK Government, produced its final report in June 2009. The report set out a package of measures designed to review 10 years of experience of devolution and to recommend changes to enable the Scottish Parliament to serve the people of Scotland better, to improve the financial accountability of the Scottish Parliament and continue to secure the position of Scotland within the United Kingdom.

The Government welcomed the final report from the Commission on Scottish Devolution on its publication and responded formally with a White Paper "Scotland's Future in the United Kingdom" on 25 November 2009. Of the 63 recommendations, 42 were for Government to consider and 39 were accepted in the White Paper, including a radical package of reform to the financial accountability of the Scottish Parliament. The Government signalled their commitment to bring forward legislation as soon as possible in the next Parliament for those matters outlined in the White Paper that require it.

The Scottish Affairs Committee's consideration followed a letter from the Speaker of the House of Commons to both the Scottish Affairs Committee and the Procedure Committee to ask for their views on how the recommendations in part 4 of the Calman commission's final report might be taken forward. Part 4 of the commission's final report related to relations between Parliaments and Governments.

Response to the Committee's Recommendations and Findings

The Scottish Affairs Committee's report provides consideration of the recommendations made by the Commission on Scottish Devolution in relation to strengthening co-operation and communication between the House of Commons and the Scottish Parliament. These recommendations cover the following areas of co-operation and communication:

Operation of the Sewel Convention between Parliaments;

Increased involvement of Scottish MPs on Public Bill Committees where the Sewel Convention is engaged;

Introduction of a regular "State of Scotland" debate and reconsideration of the "self-denying ordinance";

Ensuring that Standing Orders allow greater co-operation between committees in the House of Commons and Scottish Parliament;

Consideration of a "Scottish Super Grand Committee";

Examination of the access arrangements for MSPs and removal of the equivalent barriers in the Scottish Parliament;

Discretion for committees and Parliaments to invite Ministers to appear before committees of either Parliament;

Continued role for MPs and Scottish Affairs Committee in scrutinising the shape and operation of the devolution settlement;

Enhanced communication and co-operation between the House of Commons and the Scottish Parliament, including appropriate resourcing to enable this to happen and a recommendation for secondment and exchanges of staff.

All of these recommendations relate to the operation of effective inter-parliamentary relations. These are matters for the House, as acknowledged by the Government in the White Paper. Where the committee recommends changes to Standing Orders the Government will give consideration to bringing forward the necessary motions early in the next Parliament.

In the White Paper the Government agreed that a strong relationship between the UK Parliament and the Scottish Parliament was an essential part of a framework for co-operation within the UK. We also welcomed the support shown by the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament to consideration of how to strengthen their relationships in its White Paper.

The Government believe that the third report from the Scottish Affairs Committee provides a very positive response and a strong framework for improving co-operation in line with the recommendations from the Commission on Scottish Devolution.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

HM Customs and Excise Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

On 15 July 2003 Lord Goldsmith, then Attorney-General, announced to the House the publication of the report and recommendations of the Hon. Mr. Justice Butterfield following his review of the then practices and procedures relating to disclosure, associated investigation techniques and case management in Her Majesty's Customs and Excise's criminal cases. Lord Goldsmith and the then Economic Secretary to the Treasury, my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey), had invited him to examine the circumstances that led to the termination of a number of prosecutions relating to London City Bond (LCB) in respect of alleged alcohol diversion fraud, in Liverpool Crown court on 25 November 2002.

During the course of the Butterfield inquiry, a number of unrelated prosecutions in respect of alleged money laundering collapsed in circumstances which gave rise to the same issues, and Mr. Justice Butterfield was invited to examine the additional cases as part of his inquiry.

At the same time, the Metropolitan police were conducting a criminal investigation (Operation Gestalt), which initially commenced in relation to the (LCB) prosecutions but which developed additional strands (Operation Tappert) as their inquiries progressed. As a result, Mr. Justice Butterfield suspended the second part of his inquiry into the money laundering prosecutions (to avoid prejudicing the police inquiry) but completed and published his report of the main part of his inquiry in 2003.

The criminal investigations proceeded until their eventual conclusion in 2009 when, in respect of each strand of the investigations, the Crown Prosecution Service concluded that criminal proceedings were not justified.

The Attorney-General, with the agreement of the present Financial Secretary to the Treasury, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Ham (Mr. Timms), has concluded that it is not necessary or desirable to invite Lord Justice Butterfield (as he now is) to complete the second part of his inquiry. Among other reasons, the passage of time means that any review would be focusing on practices which existed some years ago that have long since changed, and which were essentially of a similar kind to those examined in the report published in 2003. Moreover, the functions of HM Customs and Excise have since passed to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs—which is subject to the same inspection and complaints regimes as other law enforcement bodies such as the police—to the Serious Organised Crime Agency and the UKBA.

Finally, a key recommendation of the Butterfield Report, that the prosecution function of HM Customs and Excise should be carried out by a wholly independent prosecuting authority to restore confidence in fair and effective prosecutions, has been implemented successfully under the leadership of David Green QC. The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office, established in 2005, now forms an important part of the Crown Prosecution Service under the Director of Public Prosecutions.

TRANSPORT

Service Stations (Consultation)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): I am publishing today a consultation document seeking views on revisions to Department for Transport (DFT) circular 01/2008 on Service Areas and Other Roadside Facilities on Motorways and All-Purpose Trunk Roads in England.

This circular sets out the Department's policy on the provision, standards and signing of roadside facilities on the strategic road network (SRN), including motorway service areas (MSAs), motorway rest areas (MRAs), truckstops, and services and lay-bys on all-purpose trunk roads (APTRs).

The Department is now reviewing these policies and as part of this process needs to understand better the views and experiences of those that are affected by them.

The consultation document proposes making a number of changes to existing policy, such as allowing new dedicated lorry parking facilities to be located directly off motorways and requiring roadside facilities to provide recharging facilities for electric vehicles. The responses received during the consultation will inform the consideration of the policy options.

Copies of the consultation have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I am pleased to announce the targets for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) for 2010-11.

These are;

1. Maintain the quality of maritime emergency co-ordination and response by the Coastguard.

2a. Helicopters tasked to respond to incidents will be airborne within 15 minutes during daylight hours and 45 minutes at night in at least 98 per cent. of cases.

2b. At each MCA search and rescue helicopter base, a helicopter will be available at least 98 per cent. of the contracted time to respond to incidents.

3. Meet the internationally required targets to inspect foreign vessels in UK ports under port state control arrangements, with an increasing emphasis on inspecting available ships judged to be high risk.

4. Maintain the quality of the UK Ship Register by reducing the level of deficiencies recorded on UK ships inspected abroad, and maintain a position on the Paris MOU white list which is comparable to registers of a similar size and reputation.

5. As a category 1 responder, continue to meet the provisions of the Civil Contingencies Act including engagement with local resilience forums (LRF).

6. Respond promptly to potential and actual pollution from ships around the UK coast, drawing effectively on resources including our emergency tugs, and following the procedures set out in the national contingency plan.

The MCA will also continue with their programme of work covering the following safety themes:

Seafarer Fatigue—working with the shipping industry and seafarer unions on a coherent strategy to reduce seafarer fatigue.

Fishing Vessel Safety—working with the fishing industry to improve the safety of small fishing vessels (under 15 metres).

Recreational Safety—working with the agency's partner organisations (including the Royal National Lifeboat Institute and the Royal Yachting Association), to promote the wearing of lifejackets within the leisure sector and recreational safety more generally.

Vessel Traffic Management—identifying the future requirements of sea space management and the role the agency may perform.

The agency will also monitor its performance through a range of service standards and measured outcomes which will be reported in its published annual report and accounts.

JUSTICE

Her Majesty's Land Registry (KPI and Targets)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): The following list sets out the key performance indicators and targets that have been set for Her Majesty's Land Registry for 2010-11.

Customer Service

Speed

Percentage of all registrations processed within 15 working days: 80 per cent.

Accuracy

Percentage of registrations processed free of any error: 98.5 per cent.

Quality

Percentage of manually processed registrations on which key aspects[1] of internal quality measures were achieved: 97 per cent.

Overall Satisfaction

Percentage of customers who rate the overall service provided by Land Registry as excellent, very good or good: better than 95 per cent.

Financial

Percentage return on average capital employed: 3.5 per cent.

Efficiency

Cost per unit in cash terms[2] (real terms[3]): £33.65 (£21.70).

Other strategic targets

Percentage of transactions[4] delivered through e-channels: 65 per cent.

Through voluntary registration, add a further 250,000 hectares of land to the total areas of registered freehold land in England and Wales.

Earn a contribution from add value products and services of 8 per cent. of its income net of direct costs and apportioned product development costs.

Increase gross incremental revenue from all add value products and services by a further £2.6 million above 2009-10 actual.

Deliver the key Accelerated Transformation Programme milestones as detailed in the Accelerated Transformation Programme Plan.

To increase the percentage of staff positively engaged with Land Registry to 50 per cent.

To increase the percentage of staff satisfied with Land Registry's leadership and change management to 45 per cent.

[1]The specified key areas are (a) the index map (b) the proprietorship entry and (c) easements.

[2]Based on the GDP deflator issued by HM Treasury on 24 March 2010 (base year 1992/3).

[3]The real term unit cost in the base year of 1992/3 was £30.65.

[4]Transactions are defined as any request for a statutory service provided by Land Registry. Although a transaction has a unit value, this measure reflects the actual number of transactions and not their unit value.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 7 April 2010

TREASURY

Tax Information Exchange (Dominica and Grenada)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAS) were signed with the Commonwealth of Dominica and with Grenada in London on 31 March 2010.

The text of each TIEA has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. Each text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Equipment

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): Further to my announcements on 22, 25 and 29 March, I can advise the House that the Ministry of Defence has signed a £690 million engine support contract with Rolls-Royce for 15 years to see Royal Air Force Tornado aircraft through to their out-of-service date in 2025.

In my statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 801, I set out our intention to review the fast jet fleet mix in the course of the forthcoming strategic defence review. I can assure the House that this support contract provides sufficient flexibility for changes in future aircraft numbers, and will deliver excellent value for money for defence. It is expected that this new contract will deliver savings in the order of £180 million over the next 15 years.

The RB199 Operational Contract for Engine Transformation 2 covers repair, maintenance, provision of spares and technical support, and builds on the current Rolls-Royce support contract.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Minister with responsibility for food, farming and environment, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick), and the Minister with responsibility for marine and natural environment, my hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies), represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 29 March.

The presidency tabled presidency conclusions on the food supply chain in Europe, acknowledging that the distance between member states on issues related to the CAP and competition rules, and the treatment of producer organisations, was unbridgeable. The four dissenting member states—UK, Sweden, Denmark and Czech Republic—all confirmed their opposition to Council conclusions, but noted that there was much common ground on wider aspects of the text.

France recorded a number of observations underpinning the presidency text, while other member states took the floor to support the presidency and to press issues. Commissioner Ciolos, endorsing the presidency text, noted the need for proposals to deal with medium and long-term issues related to the food supply chain, including competition policy. The presidency recorded that while much of the text had been agreed unanimously, unamended presidency conclusions would be adopted with the support of a majority of member states.

Following discussion on the reform of market management measures for the post-2013 CAP at the February Council, the presidency adopted presidency conclusions, branded informally "trio conclusions" on behalf of the present and incoming Belgian and Hungarian presidencies. The conclusions recorded the prevailing view among Ministers that the current CAP market orientation was sufficient, and that the existing market management regime should be retained as a safety net.

Commissioner Ciolos observed that the conclusions were merely the beginning of a debate on the future of market management, which would inform the wider debate on CAP reform post-2013. The presidency stated that its conclusions were supported by the majority, and that there would be an opportunity for further discussion of CAP reform at the informal Council on 1 June.

Commissioner Ciolos then presented the latest iteration of its quarterly dairy market report, and noted the recovery in the sector since 2008.

Next, the presidency facilitated a discussion on the relationship between Europe 2020 and the CAP, providing Ministers with a questionnaire which solicited their views on the CAP's contribution to Europe 2020 objectives. They also noted that the European Council had adopted a specific conclusion in respect of the relationship between Europe 2020 and the CAP, observing that the CAP "will need" to support Europe 2020.

The Commission noted that Europe 2020 was not intended to undermine existing EU policies. The CAP would continue, subject to reform, and in conformity with the provisions of the Lisbon treaty. The CAP should also meet the three objectives set out in Europe 2020: smart, inclusive, and green economic growth. It also suggested that Agriculture Council should feed the European Council ideas on how CAP reform could feed into Europe 2020 with a view to consideration at the June European Council.

A full table round developed with a predictable split between those member states who believed that Europe 2020 was inexcusably silent on the contribution of the CAP to the growth of the European economy; and those that believed that the CAP would need to prove its worth through reform in support of Europe 2020 objectives. Each camp interpreted the European Council conclusion on the CAP and Europe 2020 as support for its own particular. The presidency concluded that it would be important to consider the Agriculture Council's contribution to the June European Council, where Europe 2020 would be adopted. It would outline its plans in due course.

Under any other business, Italy raised concerns about implementing the 2006 Regulation On Mediterranean Fisheries Management, which was causing serious difficulties for operators and there should be some reconsideration of how this should be done. Commissioner Damanaki was robust in saying that many Mediterranean stocks were not being sustainably fished and that member states had had more than three years to implement this regulation.

Malta, with some support, raised concerns about some member states voting differently to the agreed EU position on bluefin tuna at CITES and the difficult position this had left them in with their fishing industry. Commissioner Potocnik drew some general conclusions, including the need for the EU to up its game on external representation and reserved the right to take all necessary measures in relation to this specific case. The UK registered disappointment that CITES was unable to agree to protect bluefin tuna.

France brought to Ministers' attention the forthcoming agriculture ministerial meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean in Cairo, 15 and 16 June, and encouraged Ministers to attend.

Austria presented its paper recording the outcome of the recent OECD agricultural ministerial, highlighting Ministers' acknowledgment of the climate security challenges facing agriculture.

Commissioner Ciolos noted that there were no significantly new elements to discuss regarding the WTO/DDA. However, as a new Commissioner, and as agricultural negotiator, Ciolos wanted to reaffirm his own commitment to a balanced conclusion to the round.

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I represented the United Kingdom at the Environment Council on 15 March in Brussels together with the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, Deptford (Joan Ruddock).

The presidency presented a progress report on the soil framework directive, noting that negotiations remain stalled because a group of member states that includes the UK remains strongly opposed to it. In the discussion that followed, I reiterated the reasons for the United Kingdom's position and highlighted that the fundamental differences of view between member states mean there is a need for a fresh approach to the dossier. Other member states spoke in line with their well-established positions.

The Council adopted conclusions setting out an EU vision for biodiversity through to 2050, and setting a 2020 target to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems services and to restore these as far as possible. I spoke in support of the conclusions and welcomed the work of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES) and the study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB). I also highlighted the importance of forestry and access and benefit sharing in ensuring an ambitious outcome at the conference of the parties to the convention on biodiversity in Nagoya later this year.

Environment Ministers also exchanged views on the Commission's recently published communication on the Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth, in advance of debate in the European Council later this month. I welcomed the communication's focus on resource efficiency and emphasised that the transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and climate-resilient economy, which preserves our natural resources for future generations, represents an important opportunity to promote jobs and growth.

Lunchtime discussion focused on the follow-up to the Copenhagen climate change conference. Following lunch, Ministers agreed Council conclusions on this subject in which EU positions were broadly maintained. My hon. Friend the Minister of State emphasised the importance of working towards a lega"y binding outcome and in particular making concrete progress towards this in Cancún. She highlighted the importance of the positive outcomes from Copenhagen and encouraged swift progress on implementing the Copenhagen accord, particularly around REDD+ (the framework for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) and fast-start finance. Ministers continued to show commitment to a global legal framework for reducing emissions, with openness on proposals for achieving it. Mexican Environment Minister Juan Elvira Quesada attended to update Ministers on Mexican preparations for Cancún, and my hon. Friend the Minister of State intervened in recognition of the Mexican team's dedication and efforts to renew the negotiation process.

The Environment Council concluded with a policy debate on the proposed regulation on reducing CO_2 emissions from light vehicles (for example, vans), during which my hon. Friend the Minister of State emphasised that this proposal is key to reducing carbon emissions from transport. She stated that the regulation must include an achievable long-term target for 2020 and also proposed a short-term target date for 2016, supported by effective penalties and incentives for investment in ultra-low-carbon vehicles. She also highlighted the importance of maintaining competitiveness in the automotive sector through the flexibilities proposed in the regulation.

PRIME MINISTER

General Election Guidance

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have written to ministerial colleagues providing guidance on the conduct of Government business during the election period. The Cabinet Secretary has also issued guidance to civil servants on their conduct during this period. The guidance comes into force with immediate effect.

Copies of the documents have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Cabinet Office website at: www.cabinet-office.gov.uk

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pension Protection Fund (Chair)

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): I can confirm that Lady Judge (Barbara Judge) has been selected to be the next chair of the

Pension Protection Fund (PPF). Lady Judge will take over from Mr. Lawrence Churchill from 1 July 2010 and her appointment will last for three years.

Chairing the PPF is a challenging role. Lady Judge, who will join the PPF from the UK Atomic Energy Authority, which she currently chairs, will bring a wide range of financial and management experience from both the public and private sectors.

The PPF is a statutory fund created to protect members of defined-benefit occupational pension schemes by paying compensation if their employer becomes insolvent and the pension scheme is under funded. It provides a safety net for 12 million members of defined benefit pension schemes. The fund is administered by the board of the Pension Protection Fund, a public corporation.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 8 April 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Skills Funding Agency

The Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs (Kevin Brennan): I am announcing today that the new Skills Funding Agency, an agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, became operational from 1 April 2010. This follows the announcement in the White Paper "Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver", which was published jointly with DCSF on 17 March 2008.

The Skills Funding Agency takes over responsibility for funding post-19 education and skills training from the Learning and Skills Council for England, which has been abolished under the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. The budget and overarching priorities and targets for the agency have already been published in the Government's "Skills Investment Strategy", a copy of which can be found on the Department's website at www.bis.gov.uk.

The chief executive of Skills Funding, as a statutory office holder, will report to the Secretary of State on the performance of the Skills Funding Agency, and will prepare an annual report and accounts for each financial year which will be laid before Parliament.

Ministers of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are accountable to Parliament for the work of the Skills Funding Agency.

Further information on the accountability and governance framework for the Skills Funding Agency and the relationship with the Department is set out in the Skills Funding Agency framework document, copies of which will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Inquiry Report

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): In my written statement to this House on 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 17WS, I set out the steps that would need to be taken before publication of the Bloody Sunday inquiry report. These included a checking process which would enable me to meet the obligations on me in relation to article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights and national security. I can confirm that this checking process has now been completed and I have received advice from the checking team which confirms that there is nothing in the report which, if published, could breach article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights by putting the lives or safety of individuals at risk, or put national security at risk. I am therefore satisfied that the report can be published in full and I have advised Lord Saville of this.

However, given the time needed to print the report, it will not be practically possible to publish the report to Parliament before this Parliament is dissolved for the general election. As I informed the House in my statement of 22 March, Lord Saville has indicated that if such a situation were to arise his tribunal would agree to retain custody of the report until after the general election. I have now written to Lord Saville to ask the tribunal to retain custody of the report.

The report has not been shown to me or to any other Member of the Government, or to any officials except the five members of the team which carried out the checking process. Before the checking process began, I confirmed in writing to Lord Saville that it was not my intention that the checking team should brief me or any member of my Department on the content of the report; they have not done so and will not do so. The report will not be submitted to the Government until after the general election, and I hope that it can then be published as soon as practicable. I have placed copies of my letters to Lord Saville in the Libraries of both Houses.

Petitions

Monday 22 March 2010

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Sheltered Housing (Sidcup)

The Petition of persons resident in the Old Bexley and Sidcup parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned for the future of Heron Court, a sheltered housing scheme in Sidcup, with provision for elderly residents and operated by London and Quadrant Housing Trust to which nominations are made by the London Borough of Bexley.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State responsible for Local Government to ensure that their local authority considers the 600 persons upon their sheltered accommodation waiting list while empty places are retained in appropriate schemes within the Borough.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented on 12 January 2010, Official Report,* Vol. 503, c. 14P.]

[P000705]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners about the future of the Heron Court sheltered housing scheme. As autonomous bodies, the management of available social housing stock, and nominations for accommodation, are operational matters for the London and Quadrant Housing Trust and the London Borough of Bexley. Ministers have no remit to intervene in their day to day activities.

I understand, however, that the Housing Trust has met with residents of Heron Court and their families on a number of occasions to discuss their plans to modernise and refurbish the accommodation at Heron Court, so that it better meets the needs of its residents, for instance by improving accessibility.

I also understand the Trust has written to every signatory of this petition, explaining the programme of modernisation underway at Heron Court and reassuring them that no resident will be forced to move from their home. I am assured that the Trust will continue to consult with residents on each phase of the modernisation programme to ensure that their specific needs and requirements for both their homes and the communal areas of the scheme are satisfied.

More generally, my Department sponsors the Tenant Services Authority to regulate Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), such as London and Quadrant Housing Trust, to ensure they provide decent homes and services for tenants and that they are properly managed. RSLs must meet existing eligibility and registration criteria, and they must then demonstrate ongoing compliance with the Regulatory Code and guidance in respect of their financial viability, governance and management.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Social Behaviour

The Petition of Mr and Mrs Martin, the residents of St. George's Walk and others,

Declares that the constant playing of football on the green adjacent to St George's Walk is causing a nuisance to local residents by damaging the green, surrounding properties and area; that the participating youths behave anti-socially which causes distress and creates unnecessary work for residents who must clean up the mess left at the end of the day; further declares that the Council has a statutory responsibility, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, to take reasonable steps to investigate any complaint of a nuisance in their area; that for these and other valid reasons, Castle Point Borough Council should prohibit the playing of football on this area of the green and plants trees around the green to increase the safety of properties and the visual amenities for the community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to press Castle Point Borough Council and local Councillors to immediately investigate this nuisance, ban football on the green and begin planting trees for community wellbeing.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 2 March 2010; Vol. 506, c. 916.]

[P000745]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Government are committed to tackling anti-social behaviour in all its forms and have made it a key priority for action at all levels. No one should be expected to suffer from antisocial behaviour—which is why our approach is tackling not tolerating antisocial behaviour.

We have made it clear to local areas that we expect local agencies to use all the powers available to tackle anti-social behaviour; and to take swift and effective action when dealing with complaints of anti-social behaviour.

The Government have introduced a set of robust powers for local partners, including the police and local authorities, to tackle anti-social behaviour and have issued new guidance on how to make full and effective use of them. Warnings, acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs), fixed penalty notices, enforcement of tenancy agreements, anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs), premises closure orders, and injunctions are all tools that could be used to stop anti-social behaviour. There should be no situation in which anti-social behaviour cannot be tackled or victims not supported.

I understand from Castle Point borough council that action is being taken to address the problem. Ward members and residents have met with the police and the police were to increase patrols to respond to any problems.

The request for tree planting on the green has also been referred for consideration at the next Canvey West neighbourhood meeting which is to take place on 24 March 2010.

Petitions

Tuesday 23 March 2010

OBSERVATIONS

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Badman Report (Gosport)

The Petition of persons resident in the Gosport parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Sir Peter Viggers, Official Report,* 16 March 2010; Vol. 507, c. 846/7.]

[P000650]

Badman Report (North Devon)

The Petition of Persons resident in the North Devon Parliamentary Constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented on 4 March 2010, Official Report,* Vol. 506, c. 20P .]

[P000748]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:

DCSF commissioned the Badman review of home education in January 2009 and the report was published on 11 June 2009. As part of the review, Graham Badman took written and oral evidence from a range of individuals and organisations who responded to his public call for evidence, including home educators and local authorities. Alongside this he also considered published literature, the current legal position and guidance and the approaches taken in other countries. He was assisted by an expert reference group. I am confident that his report draws from a wide and heterogeneous evidence base.

The Children, Schools and Families Select Committee also considered the Badman report and was supportive of most of the recommendations. It agreed that a short statement of educational approach would be helpful in establishing dialogue between home educating families and local authorities; that an annual meeting between local authorities and home educators was needed; and that better support for home educators and better training for local authorities would together lead to an improvement on the current arrangements.

Home Education registration and monitoring proposals are included in the Children, Schools and Families Bill which passed Second Reading in the House of Lords on 8 March 2010. The proposals will put in place light touch regulation and monitoring arrangements and our guidance will make it clear that this will be proportionate and focused on support and encouragement for home educating families. We have also committed around £21 million in the first year to additional support for home educating families, which has a focus on children with SEN and home educated children who would like to attend FE College courses.

Home education is an established part of the British education system and the vast majority of home educators who do a good job will find monitoring supportive and—for the first time—backed by real resources. Our reforms will not require home educators to adopt a particular approach, to teach a specific curriculum, or for their children to take SATs tests or specific public examinations. After these reforms are implemented, England will remain one of the most liberal countries in the developed world for home educators to live in.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Regional Spatial Strategies (Irchester)

The Humble Petition of residents of Irchester, Northamptonshire and the surrounding areas,

Sheweth

that the Government's Regional Spatial Strategy requiring 52,000 new homes to be built in North Northamptonshire is having an adverse and detrimental effect on the

village of Irchester; that the proposed extension of the village policy line allowing the possibility of large scale housing as part of this spatial strategy is unacceptable; and that the Petitioners are opposed to any development outside of the existing Irchester village boundaries which would have an adverse effect on the village.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to scrap Regional Spatial Strategies and return planning decisions to local councils; and further urges him to request that the Borough Council of Wellingborough listens to the view of local people and does not extend the village policy line.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report,* 15 March 2010; Vol. 507, c. 697.]

[P000751]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that various options for development across the Borough, which includes some sites in Irchester, are currently being considered by the Borough Council of Wellingborough as part of the preparation of a draft Site Allocations Development Plan Document. He is advised that this work is at an early stage of development and that there will be a formal public consultation before any decisions are taken.

The overall numbers of houses planned for North Northamptonshire were set in the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub Regional Strategy in March 2005 following two periods of public consultation and an examination in public before an independent panel. Details on this can be seen at http://www.gos.gov.uk/gose/ourRegion/growthAreas/mksmGrowth/srs/

This was incorporated into statutory policy through the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands, issued in March 2005 and revised in March 2009. This document was also subject to formal stages of public consultation and examination in public. Further development of strategic policy for the area was covered in the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy which was adopted by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee in June 2008 following further public consultation and an examination in public. In none of these documents is Irchester named as a settlement in which major growth is proposed.

The context to the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub Regional Strategy was the Government's concern about increasing house prices and the difficulty that young families were experiencing in accessing adequate housing in places that they wished to live and at prices that they could afford. This has been caused because the numbers of new houses built across the country have for many years been considerably lower than housing needs. For example in the East Midlands while additions to the housing stock in 2008-09 totalled only 14,200, the numbers of new households forming in the region in recent years have risen to around 23,000 per year and projections indicate that this rate is likely to increase. This mismatch is a problem that is continuing to get worse throughout the whole country and the Government are firmly committed to planning to provide for more housing and more affordable housing.

The petition suggests that the Secretary of State should scrap Regional Strategies and return planning decisions to local councils. The Secretary of State does not accept that scrapping Regional Strategies will help to address the housing shortfall; furthermore the decision as to where new housing should be planned for already lies with local planning authorities. As for directing the Borough Council to listen to the views of local people and not to extend the village policy line, it is the Government's general approach not to interfere with local authorities' jurisdiction unless it is necessary to do so. Parliament has entrusted them with responsibility for day-to-day planning control in their areas and the Government consider that local planning authorities are normally best placed to make decisions relating to their areas and that it is right that in general, they should be free to carry out their duties responsibly, with the minimum of interference.

TRANSPORT

Disrepair (Felstead Road, Castle Point)

The Petition of Mr. Kent Taylor, Mr. Lee Gardiner, residents of Castle Point and others,

Declares that the pavements and Felstead Road between the A13 and Bowers Road, Benfleet are in a state of disrepair; that in their current state, these present a real and immediate danger to local residents, especially the elderly and those with limited mobility, and have already been the cause of several accidents; further, that poorly maintained pavements disadvantage pedestrians, are unsightly and adversely affect local street scene; that for these and other valid reasons, residents call for the immediate repair and continued maintenance of the road and pavements since this is in the public interest.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to press the Borough Council, Essex County Council, the Highways Authority and all Councillors, to ensure the immediate repair and continued maintenance of Felstead Road, Benfleet.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 16 March 2010; Vol. 507, c. 848.]

[P000768]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Felstead Road is a local road for which Essex County Council, as the local highway authority, is responsible for its maintenance and repair.

Local Highway Authorities, such as Essex County Council, have a duty under section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the highways network in their area. This includes the pavements. It is for each individual authority to assess which parts of its network are in need of repair and what standards should be applied, based upon their local knowledge.

Central Government have no powers to override local decisions in these matters. However, this Department encourages good practice in highway maintenance through channels such as Well Maintained Highways, the code of practice for highway maintenance published in July 2005 by the UK Roads Liaison Group (available through TSO or www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org). The code advises

local authorities to establish an inspection regime for their highways, and recommends inspection intervals for the various categories of highways.

Since the introduction of the Local Transport Plan settlement in 2001-02 DFT has more than doubled annual capital funding to local authorities across England (outside London) for maintaining local roads. Funding for 2009-10 is £735 million, up from £265 million in 2001-02. The funding central Government provide to local authorities for highway maintenance is not ring-fenced, and it is for each authority to decide how much is needed to maintain their network. The Government have also provided a total of £32 million to English local authorities to facilitate the production of Transport Asset Management Plans which should help authorities manage their roads, bridges and other highway assets.

Petitions

Wednesday 24 March 2010

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petition presented to the House on Tuesday 23 March 2010 but not read on the Floor

Business Rates

The Petition of persons concerned by the increase in business rates,

Declares that with small businesses and entrepreneurs already struggling to survive in the current economic climate, a rise in business rates will have a severe impact. Notes that business rates set for April 2010 have been subject to a revaluation process based upon inflated rental values in 2008 and further notes that Northern Ireland has deferred business rate changes this year.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon the Government to stop these damaging business rate increases.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Burrowes.]*

[P000772]

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mobile Telephone Mast (West Midlands)

The Petition of the constituents of Amblecote, Stourbridge and others,

Declares that they object to the proposed erection of an O2 mobile phone mast at Hillfields Road, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge, Dudley, West Midlands because of the possible negative environmental impact this could have on the area; the distraction the proposed mast would be to motorists who pass it; the uncertain health risks of locating a communications mast near homes, schools and play areas; the lack of consideration given to sharing communications masts with other telecoms providers; and the apparent lack of consideration by O2 as to the concerns of local people of the dangers of placing a mast near a school.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to do all in his power to object to the proposed mast as detailed in this petition.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Lynda Waltho, Official Report,* 17 March 2010; Vol. 507, c. 927.]

[P000770]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

All telecommunications development falls within the scope of the development control system. Some minor development does not require a planning application because it has planning permission granted under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (GPDO). But certain permitted development, including masts up to 15 metres high, requires a developer to submit a prior approval application to the local planning authority. Such an application allows an authority to consider the siting and appearance of the proposed development.

Under Town and Country Planning legislation, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council is responsible for determining applications for telecommunications development, including those for prior approval, within its area. The council is required to have regard to the local development plan, and any other material planning considerations, and to take account of views expressed by third parties. Guidance on the handling of planning and prior approval applications including the relevant issues that should be considered is set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 (PPG8): Telecommunications.

The Secretary of State cannot object to or comment on an application being considered by Dudley council nor on any views expressed about the application, because that would interfere with the jurisdiction of the council, and would prejudice his own position should he have to formally determine any appeal against a refusal of permission.

The Secretary of State is aware that an application was submitted in January 2010 to Dudley council for a 12.5 metre high mobile phone mast at Hillfields Road in Brierley Hill. The application was for prior approval under the GPDO to the siting and design of the mast. It attracted nearly 200 objections.

The Secretary of State understands that the council refused consent for the mast on 2 March 2010 because it would have an adverse impact on the visual amenity and character of the area and in particular an adjacent area of public open space. The applicant has the right of appeal to the Secretary of State against the decision under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within six months of the date of the decision notice. At this stage the Secretary of State is not aware that any appeal has been submitted.

Petitions

Thursday 25 March 2010

OBSERVATIONS

DEFENCE
Malaya (Rosette)

The Petition of citizens of the United Kingdom,

Declares that they accept the recognition of the award of the NGSM/GSM with clasp MALAYA to all members of the three Armed Forces of the Commonwealth, approximately 100,000 in number, a high proportion of them being National Servicemen, serving on active service in Malaya during the emergency from 16th June 1948 to its cessation on 31st of July 1960; on the 31st August 1957 the Government of the United Kingdom granted Malaya its independence.

Further declares that the Malaysian Government was formed in 1963 to include Singapore and the States of Sabah and Sarawak on the Island of Borneo; that the amalgamation of the States began a confrontation with the Indonesian Government Army; that to resist the incursion by the Indonesian Army, under the defence treaty signed between the Government of Malaysia and the Government of the United Kingdom, it was necessary to take up arms by the Commonwealth Forces resulting in an agreement being reached in August 1966; and that the Government of the United Kingdom awarded the NGSM/GSM with clasp BORNEO and the Government of Malaysia awarded the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) to all Commonwealth Forces engaged during the confrontation, including all serving members still engaged on active service in Malaya post 31st July 1957, disregarding those forces actively engaged prior to that date.

The Petition further declares that those who fought and endured the struggle between 1948 and 1957 do not qualify for any further recognition for their part in the defeat of the Military Army of the Malayan Communist Party.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to bring forward legislation to award an additional rosette, to be attached to the NGSM/GSM medal ribbon, to all forces who qualify for active service in Malaya between 16th June 1948 and 31st August 1957, in order to distinguish between those who served before Malaya's date of independence and those after; a similar circumstance was recognised by the award of a rosette with the South Atlantic Falklands Medal Ribbon.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Sandra Gidley, Official Report*, 3 February 2010; Vol. 505, c. 410 .]

[P000432]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Defence:

Service during the Malayan Emergency between 16 June 1948 and 30 June 1960 has been marked by the institution of the Naval General Service Medal (NGSM) 1915-62 and GSM 1918-62 with the clasp "Malaya".

It was, as is now, the responsibility of those in Command at the time to determine when it was appropriate to request medals for campaign service and similarly to decide when it was felt that their continued issue for a particular campaign was no longer necessary. If the military Chain of Command agreed that some additional recognition for those who served in Malaya between 1948 and 1960 was appropriate, they would have to prepare a case to be considered by the cross-Government, non-political Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals (HD Committee). This committee considers all cases for new medals and all amendments to the eligibility criteria for existing medals and makes recommendations to the Queen. It is this and previous Governments' view that it is the role of Commanders and not Ministers to determine when campaign medals should be issued.

Since the end of the Second World War the HD Committee has made it clear that it will not consider cases for any new medals, or amendments to the qualifying criteria for existing medals recognising service performed many years ago. The reason for this policy is that the present HD Committee cannot put itself in the place of the Committee which made the original decision and which would have been able to take account of the views of the Government and of other interested parties at the time of the decision.

To conclude, the institution of the NGSM and GSM with a "Malaya" clasp was entirely appropriate for the operations undertaken at that time. It is for these reasons that there are no plans to introduce any additional recognition in the form of a medal, clasp or rosette, for those veterans who served in Malaya during the Emergency.

I hope this explains the Government's position on this matter.

JUSTICE
Health (Asbestosis and Mesothelioma)

The Petition of residents of Islwyn, and others,

Declares that on October 17 2007 the House of Lords ruled that pleural plaques, scar tissue on the lungs which can be an early indication of asbestosis and mesothelioma, is not a disease and sufferers would not qualify for compensation; and further declares that the Petitioners do not agree with the decision of the House of Lords.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to seek to reverse the House of Lords decision and introduce legislation that allows sufferers to be eligible for compensation.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Don Touhig, Official Report*, 10 November 2008; Vol. 482, c. 608 .]

[P000282]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:

On 17 October 2007 the Law Lords upheld a Court of Appeal decision that the existence of pleural plaques—small localised areas of fibrosis caused by exposure to asbestos fibres, found within the pleura of the lung—does not constitute actionable or compensatable damage. Prior to that, people had been able to bring claims for compensation for pleural plaques since the 1980s.

In light of representations made by individuals and organisations who strongly disagreed with the Law Lords' decision, and in recognition of the concerns that existed, the Government published a consultation paper

on the issue which sought views on a number of options in response to the ruling, including whether to overturn the House of Lords' judgment and legislate so that pleural plaques would again be compensatable under civil law.

In total the Government received 224 responses to their consultation paper. In addition, reports were received from the Chief Medical Officer for England and Wales and the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council reviewing the medical evidence on pleural plaques. Very helpful further discussions have also taken place with key medical experts in relation to the medical evidence.

This has confirmed that the presence of pleural plaques is an indicator that a person has been exposed to asbestos. Given that exposure to asbestos increases the risk of developing a serious illness, a diagnosis of pleural plaques can give rise to an understandable sense of anxiety and unease. However, while the exposure to asbestos has resulted in an anatomical change, in the great majority of cases pleural plaques do not in themselves produce any significant physiological change or loss of lung function, and only very rarely give rise to physical symptoms. In such rare cases it is still possible for individuals to bring a civil claim for damages.

There is no available medical evidence to show that pleural plaques become malignant or lead to mesothelioma or other asbestos-related diseases. Current evidence indicates that it is a person's exposure to asbestos that produces any increased risk of developing a serious asbestos-related disease rather than the pleural plaques themselves.

The Chief Medical Officer has invited the British Lung Foundation and the British Thoracic Society to develop information materials for health care professionals, and an information leaflet for people diagnosed with pleural plaques, to ensure that consistent and accurate information is provided about the condition to help allay concerns as far as possible.

On the basis of medical evidence received during the course of this review, including authoritative reports from the Chief Medical Officer and the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council, we are unable to conclude that the Law Lords' decision should be overturned at this time or that an open-ended no-fault compensation scheme should be set up. While the current medical evidence is clear that pleural plaques are a marker of exposure to asbestos, and that exposure to asbestos significantly increases the risk of asbestos-related disease, any increased risk of a person with pleural plaques developing an asbestos-related disease arises because of that person's exposure to asbestos rather than because of the plaques themselves. However, if new medical or other significant evidence were to emerge, the Government would obviously reassess the situation.

While we cannot, for the reasons outlined above, restore the previous position, we do acknowledge the unique position of those individuals who had already begun, but not resolved, a legal claim for compensation for pleural plaques at the time of the Law Lords' ruling in October 2007. Such people would have had an understandable expectation that their claim would result in compensation and many had made plans accordingly.

The Government have decided to make payments of £5,000 to individuals in this limited category under an extra-statutory scheme. The payment broadly reflects the level of compensation likely to have been received if pleural plaques had continued to be compensatable. Detailed arrangements relating to the operation of this extra-statutory scheme will be announced shortly. The scheme will apply to England and Wales, where the Ministry of Justice has responsibility for civil law. A telephone helpline has been set up to provide information and advice for people enquiring as to whether they qualify for a payment under this scheme. The number is 020 3334 3334. The Government regard this as a unique situation and as not setting any precedent for any other circumstances where litigants may be disappointed.

A significant consequence of the House of Lords' decision has been that people diagnosed with plaques can no longer bring proceedings to establish liability for negligent exposure to asbestos. This was useful for some individuals later diagnosed with mesothelioma, as prior establishment of liability expedited their new compensation claim. This is of particular importance where conditions like mesothelioma are concerned, as patients frequently die very soon after diagnosis, leaving little time to trace records and obtain compensation. The Government believe it is imperative that steps are taken to improve the speed of payment for compensation claims for mesothelioma and other serious asbestos related diseases.

We will therefore establish a working group composed of claimant solicitors, trade unions, insurers, the judiciary, and civil servants to examine litigation practices and procedures for compensation claims relating to mesothelioma, and identify options for streamlining them in order to reduce the time taken to conclude cases. In particular the working group will consider:

- the operation of the Practice Direction for court proceedings introduced in April 2008 to ensure that it is working effectively
- possible solutions to difficulties arising from delays in obtaining medical reports because of the shortage of medical experts in this area
- why more claims do not settle, and whether any provisions in relation to pre-action behaviour would be helpful in reducing the time taken to establish liability without the need for court proceedings.

We also intend to consider changes to the substantive law to:

- resolve difficulties experienced by mesothelioma sufferers as a result of differences in the value of claims which are settled before or after the death of the person concerned and to clarify the limitation period for bringing a claim
- clarify that the limitation period for bringing a claim runs from the date that the claimant becomes aware that he or she has mesothelioma rather than from the date they became aware of the original exposure to asbestos.

In addition, in November 2009 we introduced the Third Parties (Rights against Insurers) Bill into Parliament under a new procedure for Law Commission Bills. The Bill will enable claims against insolvent employers to be brought direct against the employer's insurer. This will simplify court procedures and remove the need for dissolved companies to be restored to the register of companies. The Bill is expected to become law in this Parliament.

Further to these initiatives we are also taking action to deal with the problem of people who develop a serious asbestos-related disease but are unable to obtain full compensation because they cannot trace the employer's insurer. This problem has been recognised for some time, and since 1999 the Association of British Insurers and the Lloyds Market Association have committed to

a voluntary Code of Practice for tracing EL Insurance Policies. However, while the Tracing Service has led to some improvements, there are still many individuals who are left without help—3,210 of them in 2008.

That situation is clearly unsatisfactory and the Government are therefore consulting on two proposals to improve matters.

We believe that an essential first step is the creation of a UK-wide Employers' Liability Tracing Office (ELTO) to manage an electronic database of EL policies and to operate the existing tracing service. The Association of British Insurers has agreed to drive forward this work to help claimants and their representatives, informed by the outcome of the consultation. The new Office will initially be launched on a voluntary basis but we would ultimately like it to be a requirement on all insurers to publish relevant policy details on the ELTO. The ELTO will initially be populated with existing trace data but new and renewed policies will be included shortly afterwards. One of the issues explored in the consultation is the extent to which historic insurance records can be added to the database.

We have every expectation that the ELTO will deliver significant results, creating a database of records that will help many thousands of people trace policies and receive compensation in the future.

However, even with an ELTO there will be some people, especially those who suffer from long-tail diseases like mesothelioma, who are unable to trace their insurance records and thus are denied full compensation. The Government therefore propose to establish an Employers' Liability Insurance Bureau (ELIB) providing a compensation fund of last resort for individuals across the UK who are unable to trace EL insurance records.

The consultation, published on 10 February, examines what an ELIB should cover, the impact of an ELIB on insurers and employers, how much should be paid by way of compensation, limitations on claiming from the ELIB, and what more can be done to ensure that employers who are legally obliged to obtain ELCI do so. The Government will consider fully the responses to the consultation before determining next steps towards the introduction of an ELIB.

A mandatory ELTO and an ELIB should, in time, provide a comprehensive framework for supporting people who develop a serious asbestos-related disease. However, in recognition of the need for action now, the Government are taking a series of steps to increase the upfront payments that are currently made to mesothelioma sufferers and their dependants.

The Government will increase payments made under the Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 by 1.5 per cent., even though the retail prices index showed negative growth. In addition, we will increase payments made due to mesothelioma under the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 so that they equal payments made under the Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979.

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions is also amending regulations to increase payments to all dependants under the 1979 Act and the 2008 Act by up to £5,000, so that their awards are closer to those paid to sufferers. All of these increases will come into effect on 1 April 2010.

The fact that the UK has one of the highest rates of death from mesothelioma in the world is a legacy of our industrial heritage and the part that asbestos played in it. Just as the UK was a global leader in the asbestos industry, we must now become a global leader in research into asbestos-related disease.

We have received strong representations from clinicians, asbestos support groups and trade unions—as well as from members on all sides of this House—for the creation of a National Centre for Asbestos-Related Disease, a collaborative network of funded researchers whose core purpose would be to advance medical research into the prevention, cure and alleviation of asbestos-related disease—primarily mesothelioma.

There is now widespread recognition, including within the medical research community, that while there has been considerable investment into cancer research generally, not enough has been focused on the study of cancers of the lung, including mesothelioma. Yet mesothelioma is now the twelfth most common cancer killer in men and the cancer of most rapidly increasing incidence in women.

We are determined to expand research in this area. The Secretary of State for Health has therefore asked Department of Health officials to consider and advise on how best to create a world-leading network of medical research practitioners for asbestos-related disease. The department will involve my hon. Friend the Member for Barnsley, West and Penistone (Mr. Clapham), Dr. John Edwards and others with a special interest this review. Based on their recommendations and on advice from National Cancer Research Institute about research priorities, we will set out how Government will support an increase in research investment in this area. In addition, the insurance industry will be contributing £3 million towards research into asbestos-related disease.

The Government believe that these measures will be of real and significant benefit to people diagnosed with mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases.

Petitions

Monday 29 March 2010

OBSERVATIONS

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Gaza

The Petition of residents of Bristol and others,

Declares that the Government should fulfil its responsibilities as a high contracting party to the Geneva Convention.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to immediately take steps to institute a war crimes investigation in the UK into Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip between 27 December and 18 January 2009, and for the UK prosecuting authorities to search out and prosecute (or extradite for trial elsewhere) all suspected war criminals identified by the investigation; and urges the Government to seek a binding resolution at the UN Security Council to establish an international commission of inquiry into the Gaza attacks and the referral of potential cases to the International Criminal Court.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Stephen Williams, Official Report,* 26 January 2010; Vol. 504, c. 781 .]

[P000706]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

Although under the Geneva Conventions Act the UK has jurisdiction to prosecute war crimes in an international conflict, we consider that it is the primary responsibility of the parties involved to investigate such allegations. The Report of the UN Human Rights Council-mandated Fact Finding Mission on Gaza (The Goldstone Report) and the UN General Assembly also made clear that the parties should do. From the outset we have called for the very serious allegations about conduct of the Gaza conflict by both sides to be properly and impartially investigated by the parties to the conflict.

On 5 February, the UN Secretary-General released a report outlining the progress of investigations by the parties. Israel, Hamas and the Palestinian Authority (PA) contributed material to this report. The UN Secretary-General's report highlighted that the responsibility to investigate and prosecute alleged violations of international humanitarian law during a conflict falls first and foremost to the parties to the conflict.

It is clear that Hamas have not conducted anything like the sort of credible, independent investigation required; however, we welcome the Palestinian Authority's establishment of an Independent Investigative Commission. This and the Israeli 31 January 2010 update document outlining the progress of Israel's investigations are steps towards the full and credible accountability we are seeking. However, concerns remain and we continue to follow progress closely. It was for this reason that the UK voted in favour of the General Assembly resolution on the follow up to the UN fact-finding mission on the Gaza on 26 February. We have consistently called for full, credible and impartial investigations into the allegations in the Goldstone Report on the conduct of both parties during that conflict which is exactly what this resolution called for.

JUSTICE

Homosexuals (Right to Marriage)

The Petition of residents of Bristol and others,

Declares that the Petitioners disapprove of the fact that homosexuals do not have the right to a legal ceremony of marriage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to bring forward legislation to give homosexuals the right to a legal ceremony of marriage.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Stephen Williams, Official Report,* 26 January 2010; Vol. 504, c. 780 .]

[P000707]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice, received 26 March 2010:

The Government have no plans to legislate for same-sex marriage. It is important to recognise that marriage has particular historical traditions attached to it. The Government strongly believe that no one should be treated less favourably because of their sexual orientation. We feel that civil partnership provides an appropriate, secular approach to giving recognition to same-sex couples.

The Civil Partnership Act 2004 was introduced to give same-sex couples the right to gain rights and responsibilities equivalent to those of married couples and as a way for lesbian and gay couples to show their commitment to each other in the same way that opposite-sex couples can through marriage.

The main aim of the Civil Partnership Act was to address the injustices that same-sex couples faced because they had been unable to secure legal recognition of their relationships. Provisions in the Civil Partnership Act comprise both rights and responsibilities, which are on a par with those bestowed by marriage. These include, for example, a duty to provide maintenance to the other partner; compensation under the provisions of the Fatal Accidents Act; and the right to survivor pension benefits, to name a few. The Civil Partnership Act does not apply to opposite-sex couples as they have always had the opportunity to obtain a legal and "socially recognised" status for their relationship through marriage, whether through a religious or civil ceremony.

The Government have always maintained that marriage itself is only between a man and a woman. This view has been upheld by the UK courts, most recently in the case of Wilkinson and Kitzinger 2006. Wilkinson and Kitzinger are a British lesbian couple who got married in Canada where same-sex marriage is legal. Under UK law, their marriage is recognised as a civil partnership, but they wanted the court to rule that it should be recognised as a marriage. However, the High Court decided in line with case law, that it could not be recognised as a marriage because they are not male and female.

During the Lords' Report stage of the Equality Bill on 2 March 2010, an amendment tabled by Lord Alli won a free vote. The effect of this amendment would be to amend the Civil Partnership Act 2004, by removing the express prohibition on civil partnerships taking place in religious premises in England and Wales. The intention of this amendment would be to enable same-sex

couples to register their civil partnership within religious premises assuming that the particular religious institution permitted this.

This is not same-sex marriage, but would provide the opportunity for same-sex couples to register their civil partnership in a religious setting, accompanied by a religious service if they so wished. The Government made their position clear during the amendment debate but is currently considering their position in light of this vote, and the further clarifying amendments that have since been tabled by Lord Alli.

Petitions

Tuesday 30 March 2010

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Equitable Life (Birmingham, Northfield)

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000816]

OBSERVATIONS

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Free School Meals (Stoke-on-Trent)

The Petition of Rachael Wilson and others,

Declares that there is a desire among the people of the city of Stoke-on-Trent for Free School Meal provision in the area's schools; further declares that several hundred postcards in support of Free School Meal provision, signed by parents, grandparents and carers of children studying in Stoke-on-Trent Primary Schools, have been sent to the Member for Stoke-on-Trent.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons call upon the Government to take steps to ensure that Free School Meals can be provided in the city of Stoke-on-Trent.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Robert Flello, Official Report,* 16 March 2010; Vol. 507, c. 846 .] [P000769]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:

In his pre-Budget report 2009 the Chancellor announced that there would be an extension to the current universal Free School Meals (FSM) pilots for primary school children, so that there will be a pilot in each Government office region. Letters were sent to local authorities on 4 February, outlining the key criteria that had to be met if an area wanted to run a pilot. These were that the area could match the additional funding provided by this Department and that schools and the local authority had capacity to deliver the one-year pilot from September 2010.

If the local authority fulfilled these criteria they were invited to express their interest by 17 February. Expressions of interest were evaluated and, following Ministerial agreement, a number of them were asked to develop full bids by 12 March. I am sorry to report that we did not receive an expression of interest from the hon. Member's local authority.

While I appreciate the hon. Member's support for free school meals, as the application process has now closed, it would not be appropriate for my Department to fund pilots in local authorities which have not expressed an interest.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning (Elvaston Castle Country Park)

The Petition of Friends of Elvaston, residents of Derbyshire and others,

Declares that the Petitioners object to the proposed planning application to lease Elvaston Castle Country Park to private developers;

Declares that the change of use to a privately run facility will deprive some sections of the community of the opportunity to use the Castle, which previously hosted activities for all the community; that building a hotel complex and golf course on the land will reduce public open space and lessen the designated green belt; that the beautiful Major Oak Tree in the Paddock, which is around 260 years old, will be felled to make way for the complex; that the golf course may deposit pollutants into the River Derwent and surrounding water courses, and may create risks to the Country Park, Elvaston, Thulston, Ambaston and surrounding areas;

Further declares that changes to the footprint of the 17th century coach road will affect members of the public who use the footpath and that traffic on the planned new road would be in conflict with other Park users and would create air and noise pollution, as well as requiring thinning and felling of trees, some of which are protected species;

Further declares that to access the proposed golf club house, a new road would be needed on or parallel to Bedford Drive, a designated Public Right of Way, and that if the new road is parallel to Bedford Drive then this would require felling of trees, loss of habitat and the creation of air and noise pollution, as well as loss of land for drainage, signage and lighting; that the new road development would fall within the Country Park, green belt and English Heritage Grade 2 Listed Gardens; that increased traffic could cause dangerous road hazards, and that other new roads are also planned that could damage the Country Park;

Further declares that the proposed development could seriously harm the biodiversity of the designated Local Nature Reserve and the Nature Conservation Area within the Park; that the planned golf courses could destroy the Regionally Important Geomorphological and Geological Site containing remains of flora and

fauna from the Ipswichian period of the Earth's Development; that archaeological remains dating from every period of history back to the Middle Stone Age could be damaged or destroyed by the planned golf courses; and that the planned actions will contravene many Local and Regional Plans and Planning Policies.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to take steps to prevent the approval of the planning application to lease Elvaston Castle Country Park to private developers, in order to preserve the natural environment of the park and its rights of way for public use; and to protect the biodiversity and the important geological and archaeological assets within the Park.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Bob Laxton, Official Report,* 23 February 2010; Vol. 506, c. 270.]

[P000739]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has been informed by Derbyshire County Council, who are the landowners of the castle and park, that a planning application has not been submitted for this site. South Derbyshire District Council has confirmed that it has not received any planning applications relevant to the site. Therefore it is not appropriate for the Secretary of State to comment on the matter, however the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Dewsbury (Mr. Malik) has written to my hon. Friend the Member for Derby, North (Mr. Laxton) in response to correspondence on a similar issue.

HEALTH

Dementia Research

The Petition of members of UNISON and others,

Declares that 1 million people will develop dementia in the next 10 years; that one in three people over the age of 65 will die from dementia but that it can happen at any age; and that while drugs may alleviate some symptoms, there is currently no cure;

Further declares that the Government must fund research to develop better treatments and a cure, and to prevent an NHS crisis; and that for every £283 invested in cancer research, dementia research gets only £1.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons call upon the Government immediately to increase funding for dementia research to help the lives of those affected today, and to reduce the threat in future to the NHS.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Kelvin Hopkins, Official Report, Tuesday 16 March 2010; Vol. 507, c. 845.]*

[P000750]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

Dementia is one of the most important issues we face as the population ages and research is the key to developing new treatments, transforming care and ultimately finding a cure.

Public funding is available. The Department of Health and Medical Research Council will invest some £1.7 billion in heath-related research in 2010-11. The Government are very keen to see an increase in the number of dementia research proposals getting a share of this funding.

To that end, two initiatives have been taken by the Department of Health. A Ministerial Summit on Dementia Research was held on 21 July 2009 to examine the key issues for dementia research, identifying gaps in knowledge and new opportunities for the future. A full report of the Summit proceedings was published in the autumn of 2009 and is available on line at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107955

To maintain the momentum begun by the Summit, a Ministerial Advisory Group has been set up drive forward research into the causes, cure and care of dementia and help dementia researchers to increase their success in accessing existing funding. It held its first meeting on 24 February 2010.

The Group is made up of the main organisations with a stake in dementia research. Its focus is on the key issues raised at last year's Summit, including how to increase public support for dementia research and improve its translation into better treatment and care.

The Group has identified five broad workstreams. These will be taken forward by designated sub-groups led by one or more members of the Group, drawing in additional advice and expertise as necessary.

The worksteam topics are:

agreeing priority topics for dementia research, in each of the three main areas of cause, cure and care;

finding ways of raising public awareness of, and support for, dementia research and increasing public engagement in dementia research;

increasing the success of dementia research in securing available funding and support and identifying ways to improve the capacity and capability of the dementia research workforce;

developing better ways of working between researchers and between public and private sectors; and identifying further ways to 'bust bureaucracy' where there are issues specific to dementia research;

improving the 'translation' of research into better treatment and care.

Each workstream sub-group will examine its specific area in detail, identifying the major issues and suggesting practical ways to address them.

Spinal Cord Injuries (Physiotherapy)

The Petition of People of the London Borough of Croydon,

Declares that there is no provision within the NHS outpatient physiotherapy services of an ongoing exercise regime to improve overall health, fitness and wellbeing for persons with a spinal cord injury; further declares that the petitioners believe that, without such a regime, such persons will undoubtedly in the future require continuing NHS health care services as inpatients.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to ensure that such an ongoing exercise regime is made available by the NHS outpatient physiotherapy services to all persons who have a spinal cord injury.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 24 February 2010; Vol. 506, c. 417 .]

[P000740]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The Secretary of State recognises that spinal cord injury is a devastating condition, requiring extensive rehabilitation from a range of health care professionals.

All patients, including those with a spinal cord injury, who have been critically ill and spent a time in critical care should be assessed for on-going rehabilitation needs in accordance with NICE Clinical Guideline 83. This should include physiotherapy and psychological needs as necessary.

NHS physiotherapy services are provided on the basis of assessed clinical need. It is for Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in partnership with local stakeholders, including practice based commissioners, local government and the public, to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of physiotherapy.

The Department of Health encourages local NHS organisations to adopt the quality standards outlined in the National Service Framework (NSF) for Long-Term (Neurological) Conditions. The NSF recognises the importance of rehabilitation services, such as those provided by physiotherapists, for addressing the complex needs of people with spinal cord injury and that adequately staffed and resourced services are required to achieve this.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Bellamy's Bar Closure

The Petition of staff working in Parliament,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned at the announcement by the House of Commons Commission that it intends to close Bellamy's Bar, the Astor Suite and Bellamy's club room on the first floor of 1 Parliament Street in order to provide a day nursery; that the Petitioners believe that the estimated cost of conversion of £400,000 is unacceptable in the present economic climate, particularly having regard to the expenditure of £480,000 on refurbishing the facilities less than two years ago;

Further declares that the Petitioners deplore the fact that there has been no consultation with the users of the facilities or with those who work there, and find it unacceptable that there are no plans to replace the facilities elsewhere on the Parliamentary estate; and that the Petitioners believe that ground floor premises at Derby Gate which will become available during the next Parliament will be better suited for conversion into a day nursery.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon the House of Commons Commission to reconsider its decision, and to bring forward fresh proposals early in the next Parliament which take account of the demand for day nursery facilities among incoming Members of Parliament, their families, and staff, with a view to meeting that demand at an affordable price within the space to be vacated on the ground floor at Derby Gate.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Christopher Chope, Official Report,* 1 March 2010; Vol. 506, c. 772 .]

[P000743]

Observations from the House of Commons Commission:

The Commission recognises that Bellamy's Bar, the Astor Suite and Bellamy's club room are much valued and will be missed by many staff working in Parliament, as well as some Members. However, the decision to use those premises for the nursery was taken only after detailed consideration of a number of options. Eight potential sites were initially identified, and they were visited and evaluated in relation to criteria including access and egress, security, size and structure and services to the site. A final shortlist of three sites was considered (at 1 Parliament Street, North Curtain Corridor and 2 Abbey Gardens). After further consideration, the 1 Parliament Street site was selected, partly on the grounds that the cost of conversion was the lowest of the three options. The Commission remains of the view that the most suitable site has been selected, though it regrets the loss of the existing facilities there.

The Commission's aim has been to have the nursery operating early in the next Parliament, before incoming Members have made other childcare arrangements. It was not therefore possible to delay the decision.

TRANSPORT

Night Buses (New Addington, Croydon)

The Petition of people of New Addington,

Declares that they would wish to see the current all night bus service maintained to serve all parts of New Addington.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage Transport for London following the withdrawal of the N159 bus service to extend the 64 bus route during night running to serve all parts of New Addington.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 29 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 606 .]

[P000788]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Mayor of London has overall responsibility for transport in the capital, including all London Bus services.

The Department already provides substantial funding to TfL, which has risen dramatically since 2000, more than doubling to £3.3 billion in 2010-11. This funding is not ring-fenced to specific projects. It is for the Mayor to make best use of the funding available to him to deliver transport services (existing or new) where this offers value for money or addresses an identifiable transport demand.

Traffic Accidents (Addiscombe, Croydon)

The Petition of the people of Addiscombe,

Declares that they are concerned about road traffic accidents in the Lower Addiscombe Road on and near the zebra crossing at the old Addiscombe railway site.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage the authorities to introduce a pedestrian activated traffic light controlled crossing to replace the zebra crossing on the Lower Addiscombe Road at the old Addiscombe railway site.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 24 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 349 .]

[P000784]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

All roads in London, except the motorways, are the responsibility of Transport for London (TfL) or the London Boroughs. The relevant highway and traffic authorities are responsible for deciding how to manage traffic and road safety in accordance with their local objectives and the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy.

Although the Department for Transport is responsible for regulations, guidance and advice which apply to pedestrian crossings, it is for local authorities to decide the most appropriate type of crossing to suit local conditions.

The Department is keen to see local authorities taking positive action to improve road safety, in the light of local collision data, conditions and priorities.

Traffic Accidents (Coombe Lane, Croydon)

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that they are concerned about serious road traffic accidents on Coombe Lane, Croydon.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage the authorities to introduce improved road safety measures on Coombe Lane, Croydon.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 24 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 349 .]

[P000785]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Road Traffic Act 1988 placed a duty on local highway authorities to prepare and carry out a programme of measures designed to promote road safety.

All roads in London, except the motorways, are the responsibility of Transport for London (TfL) or the London Boroughs. The relevant highway authority is responsible for studying the occurrence of collisions and taking preventative measures in accordance with their local objectives and the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy.

The Department is keen to see local authorities taking positive action to improve road safety, in light of local collision data, conditions and priorities.

Tram Overcrowding (Croydon)

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that they face such overcrowding at peak times on Tramlink that it can be impossible to board the tram.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to secure funding for the provision of extra trams for Croydon.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 29 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 605 .]

[P000793]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Mayor of London has overall responsibility for transport in the capital (with the exception of Network Rail) with Transport for London (TfL) and its subsidiary London Tramlink having operational responsibility for the Croydon Tramlink.

The Department already provides substantial funding to TfL, which has risen dramatically since 2000, more than doubling to £3.3 billion in 2010-11. This funding is not ring fenced to specific projects. It is for the Mayor to make best use of the funding available to him to deliver transport services as well as new investment where this offers value for money or addresses an identifiable transport demand.

Petitions

Tuesday 6 April 2010

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petitions presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (Teignbridge)

The Petition of persons resident in the Teignbridge parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Richard Younger-Ross.]*

[P000819]

Equitable Life (Teignbridge)

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Richard Younger-Ross.]*

[P000820]

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Decent Homes Programme (Funding)

The Petition of the tenants of Sutton Housing Partnership and others,

Declares that the decision to postpone and cut back funding to support home improvement works to meet the Government's decent homes standard will condemn thousands of tenants to a future in poor and inadequate housing while continuing to pay millions of pounds in rent as a negative subsidy to the Treasury.

Further declares that the decision to switch funds from improvement to new build is misjudged and was made without consultation with local authorities, Arms Length Management Organisations or tenants.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon Her Majesty's Government not to renege on its promises and stand by their pledge to tenants by fully funding the decent home programme

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Paul Burstow, Official Report, 21 July 2009; Vol. 496, c. 855.]*

[P000401]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a petition was received relating to the decision likely to defer Decent Homes funding in the London Borough (LB) of Sutton as a contribution to fund the Housing Pledge initiative.

London Borough of Sutton has now formally withdrawn from the Judicial Review proceedings issued against the Department. The Judicial Review challenged the likely deferral of Decent Homes ALMO funding in Sutton.

The Home and Communities Agency which manages the ALMO Decent Homes programme has concluded negotiations with Sutton. Decent Homes funding has now been made available to Sutton in 2010-11.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Footpath Closure (Hadleigh, Castle Point)

The Petition of Doug Beard, residents of Shipwrights Drive, Highfield Avenue, Castle Point and others,

Declares that they object to the link footpath between Shipwrights Drive and Highfield Avenue, Hadleigh; that this footpath is a focus for vandalism to adjacent residents' properties and close residents, resulting in hundreds of pounds of damage to roof tiles, walls, security lights, and regular attendance of police officers; further, that this footpath does not provide sufficiently significant convenient access for local residents to outweigh the considerable loss of quality of life caused 24/7 to residents; that for these and many other valid reasons residents of Shipwrights Drive and Highfield Avenue, Hadleigh call for the complete closure of the link footpath since this is, on balance, in the public interest.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to press Castle Point Borough Council, the Highways Authority and all

Councillors, to ensure the immediate closure of the link footpath between Shipwrights Drive and Highfield Avenue, Hadleigh.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 16 March 2010; Vol. 507, c. 847.]

[P000767]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

There are two ways in which local residents may seek the closure of a public footpath for reasons of crime prevention.

One is to ask the local authority to make an order under section 118B of the Highways Act 1980. Such an order, if confirmed, would permanently extinguish the public right of way. However, the local authority would first have to apply to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to have the area designated for the purposes of crime prevention. A section 118B order would have to be advertised by the local authority and if there were any objections, the order would have to be submitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation. Further information is available through the following link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/countryside/prow/extinguish.htm

The other way is to ask the local authority to make a "gating order" under sections 129A to 129G of the Highways Act 1980. A gating order enables a local authority to restrict public access to a footpath and gate it (at certain times of the day if applicable), without removing the underlying highway status. Local authorities are able to make "gating orders" on grounds of antisocial behaviour as well as crime. There is no legal obligation to submit a gating order to the Secretary of State where there are objections. Further information is available through the following link:

http://www.asb.homeoffice.gov.uk/members/article.aspx?id=7924&terms=gating+orders&searchtype=2&fragment=False

HEALTH

Newborough Pharmacy (Peterborough)

The Humble Petition of Sharmeen Datoo of 1317 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE4 6LW,

Sheweth,

that Newborough Pharmacy in Newborough, Peterborough be supported and kept open. This pharmacy provides a valuable and much needed service. It will be a great loss to the community if the pharmacy is to close on account of lack of your support.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House asks the Secretary of State for Health that he does all in his power to ensure that the Pharmacy in Newborough, Peterborough remains open. Furthermore that he asks the Peterborough Primary Care Trust to review its decision to grant dispensing permissions to another Practice in the City to dispense in Newborough.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Stewart Jackson, Official Report,* 24 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 346.]

[P000776]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The Government are committed to ensuring that people have access to NHS pharmaceutical services. For Newborough village, NHS Peterborough is responsible for the provision of such services in accordance with the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005.

The Government understand that this specific case is currently the subject of an appeal. It would therefore not be appropriate to comment while this process is under way.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliamentary Reform

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that Andrew Pelling has served as an effective Member of Parliament for Croydon Central putting Croydon first and would serve Croydon well again if he were to be persuaded to stand for re-election in the upcoming General Election.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons uses the powers of the new Business Committee to table further debates on Parliamentary reform to allow discussion on the advantages of independence in the House.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 30 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 790.]

[P000815]

Observations from the Leader of the House of Commons:

On 22 February and 4 March, the House of Commons agreed to a series of reforms to enhance how the House of Commons operates. These reforms included the establishment of a Back Bench Business Committee, the election of chairs and members of Select Committees, and engaging the public with Parliament.

TRANSPORT

Bus Routes (Croydon)

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that they would support the introduction of a 24 hours a day service on the 64 bus route.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage Transport for London in this proposal of a 24 hours a day 64 bus route.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 30 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 789.]

[P000809]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received Thursday 1 April 2010:

The Mayor of London has overall responsibility for transport in the capital, including all London bus services.

The Department already provides substantial funding to TfL, which has risen dramatically since 2000, more than doubling to £3.3 billion in 2010-11. This funding is not ring-fenced to specific projects. It is for the Mayor

to make best use of the funding available to him to deliver transport services (existing or new) where this offers value for money or addresses an identifiable transport demand.

Bus Service (Essex)

The Petition of Carol Tebbutt, members of Age Concern Canvey Island, the residents of Castle Point and others,

Declares that they object to the reduction in frequency of low-floor buses operating on the number 21 bus route between Southend and Canvey Island, operated by FirstGroup; that this reduction in the number of low-floor buses discriminates against passengers with greater accessibility needs, including the elderly, infirm, adults accompanying small children and those with limited mobility; further, that this route is used by residents travelling to and from Southend Hospital and requiring frequent, accessible, reliable and comfortable bus services; that for these and many other valid reasons only low-floor buses be operated by FirstGroup on this route and at greater frequency.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to press FirstGroup to operate only low-floor buses and at shorter intervals on the number 21 bus route between Southend and Canvey Island.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 30 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 783.]

[P000800]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Government recognise that buses are, and will remain, the most important public transport option for most local journeys. Our overall aim is to drive up standards to provide a better quality service for those who already use buses and to make buses an attractive alternative for those who currently drive for short journeys.

Since deregulation of the bus industry in 1985, the majority of bus services outside London are provided on a commercial basis by private operators. Decisions such as where to run services, the frequency of those services, the type of vehicle used, and the level of fares charged are mainly a matter for the commercial judgment of the operator concerned. But it is of course in the commercial interest of bus operators to ensure that they provide a service that meets demand, and to ensure that the quality of their service is good. The Government recently introduced the Local Transport Act, which strengthens the powers to local authorities to work in partnership with bus operators and specify improvements to services on particular routes.

The Government want to make sure that everyone, especially those from disadvantaged groups and areas, can gain access to jobs, services and social networks. As part of this commitment all buses used on scheduled services with more than 22 seats will be required to be fully compliant with the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 by 2016. The transition will take place over time and transport operators will inevitably use a mixed fleet of accessible and non-accessible vehicles. It is important that the regulations are affordable and sustainable. Following both informal and statutory consultation, which included a full Regulatory Impact Assessment, this date was considered to represent a reasonable compromise between the needs of disabled and other passengers, and the vehicle manufacturers and operators.

I will ensure the concerns raised about the use of low floor buses on this route are brought to the attention of the operator of this service.

Central Parade (New Addington, Croydon)

The Petition of the people of New Addington,

Declares that that they seek a speedy improvement in the street environment so as to rid Central Parade, New Addington, of muddy paths from the bus stop to the shops, rotted posts, broken paving, collapsed kerbs and run down street furniture.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to secure a response from Croydon Council undertaking to invest in the improvement of the street environment at Central Parade, New Addington.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 29 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 605.]

[P000794]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

We would always encourage good practice in street design and this is reflected in the guidance we produce. We recognise the importance of well designed high quality public places and their ability to improve quality of life.

However, Central Parade in New Addington is a local road for which the London Borough of Croydon has responsibility. It is for the Borough to decide on policies and priorities for improving local roads, and the Government have no power to intervene in its decisions.

East Croydon Station

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that the slopes at East Croydon station can be an especial challenge for the frail and unwell.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage Network Rail to work to improve accessibility at East Croydon station.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 24 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 348.]

[P000780]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received on Wednesday 31 March 2010:

The six existing ramps at East Croydon station have lengths between 38 metres and 75 metres and gradients of between 1:11 and 1:12. This falls outside the standards set out in the Department's Code of Practice for accessible station design. Any major work being carried out to the ramps at East Croydon station would have to redress this, or apply to DfT for a dispensation from the Code of Practice.

However, I am advised by Network Rail that there are proposals to provide a new bridge and lifts at East Croydon station using third party land. This would create level stepfree access to and between platforms. Network Rail is working with Croydon Council on this

and has secured funding from the HLOS (High Level Output Specification), with works scheduled to take place by 2014. The plan is currently at outline design stage. I also understand that, for people who have difficulty using the ramps, there is an electric wheelchair available at the station, as well as manual wheelchairs. If passenger assistance is needed, it is recommended to book it in advance using the train operator's customer services. Even if assistance has not been booked, East Croydon station always has staff available on platforms and at the ticket hall, who will be able to provide assistance where practicable.

Featherbed Lane Pinch Point (Croydon)

The Petition of the people of Addington and Forestdale,

Declares that the current highways arrangements at the pinch point at Featherbed Lane pose a danger to pedestrians and other road users and notes that narrow pavements put pedestrians at risk of collision with wider commercial vehicle.s and is concerned that current practice in Croydon on providing road safety measures requires fatalities and injuries before action is taken.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to secure an investment by Croydon Council in improving safety at the Featherbed Lane pinch point that slows traffic for the safety of all road users.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 29 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 606.]

[P000796]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received on Wednesday 31 March 2010:

The Road Traffic Act 1988 placed a duty on local highway authorities to prepare and carry out a programme of measures designed to promote road safety.

All roads in London, except the motorways, are the responsibility of Transport for London (TfL) or the London Boroughs. The relevant highway authority is responsible for studying the occurrence of casualties and taking preventative measures in accordance with their local objectives and the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy.

The Department is keen to see local authorities taking positive action to improve road safety, in the light of local casualty data, conditions and priorities.

Freedom Pass (Croydon)

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that the Freedom Pass is essential to the quality of life of many Croydon residents, and that the change in funding of the Freedom Pass may compromise the scheme.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take such steps as are necessary to ensure the scheme continues.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 24 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 347.]

[P000778]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received Thursday 1 April 2010:

I would like to clarify the situation regarding the future of the Freedom Pass as there have been a lot of misleading reports on this subject. There are currently no plans either to withdraw or amend the mandatory England-wide concessionary travel scheme or the mandatory elements of the Freedom Pass scheme.

Since April 2008, the statutory minimum bus concession has provided free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England to eligible older and disabled people resident in England. The purpose of the concession is to ensure that no older or disabled person resident in England need be prevented from bus travel by cost alone. Local buses are the most commonly used mode of public transport, particularly for older people. Indeed, for many older and disabled people a free local bus service can be a lifeline, providing access to employment, healthcare and other essential services, as well as allowing people to visit family and friends.

The right to free bus travel for older and disabled people is enshrined in Primary Legislation. This includes the Freedom Pass scheme in London, which is operated by London Councils on behalf of the London Boroughs and is the largest and most generous concessionary travel scheme in the country. Some of the scheme's characteristics are at the discretion of the London Boroughs, and London Councils is able to change these providing there is unanimous agreement amongst the Boroughs and the changes do not contravene the statutory minimum required by legislation. However, as a minimum, the scheme in London must provide free travel on the London Local Transport Network between 9.30am and midnight and the period from midnight to 4.30am on weekdays, and at any time at weekends and on Bank Holidays.

I can assure the hon. Member that the recent redistribution of special grant funding for the additional costs of the England-wide concession does not affect the ability of London Boroughs to fund their obligations for concessionary travel. They will still be left with significantly more funding than the actual burden imposed following the introduction of the extended concession in April 2008.

Potholes (New Addington, Croydon)

The Petition of people of New Addington and Croydon,

Declares that the road conditions of Parkway, New Addington has been left in such a poor state of repair that a proper repair needs to take place to the foundations of the road instead of patching repairs

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to secure Croydon Council's commitment to providing a thorough going long lasting repair of the major potholes in Parkway, New Addington

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 29 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 604.]

[P000792]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received Thursday 1 April 2010:

Maintenance of the highways in New Addington is a matter for Croydon Council, within the direction set by the Mayor's transport strategy. It has a duty, under section 41 of the Highways Act 1980, to maintain the highways in its charge. The Act does not specify standards to which highways should be maintained; this is a matter for each local highway authority, taking into account local priorities and resources. Local government democratic processes provide opportunities for the public to make their views known to the council.

The Department for Transport encourages local highways authorities to develop Transport Asset Management Plans. These set out an inventory of the assets under the council's control, the condition they are in, the service levels the council intends the assets to deliver, and their plans to maintain the assets so as to deliver that service. The Department also encourages authorities to adopt the good practice set out in the UK Roads Liaison Group's code of practice for highways maintenance management, "Well-maintained Highways" (available from www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org). The code is not mandatory, but together with complementary codes on highways structures and street lighting, provides good practice advice across the whole range of maintenance activities.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the 2010 Budget that local authorities in Great Britain would receive £100 million to assist with repairs to their highway network necessitated by this year's severe winter weather. The London Borough of Croydon will receive £164,000 as part of this. In addition, the council can also apply funding from Transport for London, Revenue Support Grant provision from the Department for Communities and Local Government, and their own resources such as Council Tax or Supported Borrowing, to the maintenance of their highways assets.

Rail Capacity (Croydon)

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that the service provided between Croydon and London stations is insufficient to meet demand, with unacceptable levels of overcrowding for hard working commuters and late night travellers.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to increase rail capacity to Croydon.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 24 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 348.]

[P000781]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received on Wednesday 31 March 2010:

It is certainly true that the rail routes between Croydon and London are busy and popular.

A number of initiatives are in hand to provide additional capacity on these routes:

1. On 23 May 2010, Transport for London's East London Line extension will open, which will provide four trains per hour all day every day (except Sunday mornings) between West Croydon and Dalston Junction with interchanges with Underground lines at Whitechapel and Canada Water.

2. The Southern Train Operating Company is committed in its Franchise Agreement to increase the lengths of peak trains, in a number of stages, during the course of its franchise. These include, for example, the lengthening of peak East Grinstead trains from 8 to 12 cars by December 2011. This will provide considerable additional capacity for commuters travelling between East Croydon and both London Victoria and London Bridge in peak hours.

3. New rolling stock for the Thameslink route is being procured by Government. Many of these trains, when they are delivered in 2014 and 2015, will be of 12-car formation, replacing the 4 and 8-car trains at present in use on the Thameslink route between East Croydon and St. Pancras International and beyond.

Soundproof Fencing (A50 Staffordshire)

The Petition of residents in Staffordshire regarding the failure of the Highways Agency to have provided the promised and effective soundproof fencing along the A50 running next to their properties,

Declares that the petitioners recognise the Highways Agency promised effective soundproof fencing along the A50, that the Agency's plans for fencing was either not erected or where it was erected made little or no difference, that this has left a constant noise so that it is no longer possible to sit out in their gardens, or sleep in bedrooms closest to the A50, and which has left many with a poor quality of life.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to do all in his power to ensure that the Highways Agency deliver the promised soundproof fencing which runs along the Blythe Bridge area of the A50.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. William Cash, Official Report,* 24 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 346.]

[P000775]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received Thursday 1 April 2010:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners.

A meeting was held on 14 December 2009 with local residents, representatives from the Highways Agency and the hon. Member for Stone (Mr. Cash) to discuss the recently replaced noise fence on the A50 at Blythe Bridge and the overall concerns by residents about noise. At the meeting it was agreed that the Highways Agency would review the effectiveness of the fence and other noise-related matters and report back their findings. The Highways Agency is now in the process of finalising this report.

Traffic (Orchard Avenue, Croydon)

The Petition of people of Shirley, Croydon,

Declares that traffic on Orchard Avenue speeds and is dangerous to all road users

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to secure support from the relevant authorities for the introduction of road safety and road calming measures

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 29 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 604.]

[P000791]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received on Wednesday 31 March 2010:

The Road Traffic Act 1988 placed a duty on local highway authorities to prepare and carry out a programme of measures designed to promote road safety.

All roads in London, except the motorways, are the responsibility of Transport for London (TfL) or the London Boroughs. The relevant highway authority is responsible for studying the occurrence of casualties and taking preventative measures in accordance with their local objectives and the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy.

The Department is keen to see local authorities taking positive action to improve road safety, in the light of local casualty data, conditions and priorities.

Traffic (The Glade, Croydon)

The Petition of People of Shirley, Croydon,

Declares that traffic on The Glade speeds and is dangerous to all road users

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to secure support from the relevant authorities for the introduction of road safety and road calming measures

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 29 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 604.]

[P000790]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received on Wednesday 31 March 2010:

The Road Traffic Act 1988 placed a duty on local highway authorities to prepare and carry out a programme of measures designed to promote road safety.

All roads in London, except the motorways, are the responsibility of Transport for London (TfL) or the London Boroughs. The relevant highway authority is responsible for studying the occurrence of casualties and taking preventative measures in accordance with their local objectives and the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy.

The Department is keen to see local authorities taking positive action to improve road safety, in the light of local casualty data, conditions and priorities.

Petitions

Wednesday 7 April 2010

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Black Taxis (East Croydon Station)

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that the arrangements for black taxis at East Croydon station are inadequate such that at times taxis take a long time to leave the NLA junction, inconveniencing passengers and reducing black taxi trade.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to press Croydon Council to secure an improvement in the ease of egress of black taxis from East Croydon station.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling.]*

[P000824]

Croydon FC

The Petition of the supporters of Croydon FC,

Declares that there have been talks with Croydon Council for many years about providing security of tenure for Croydon FC at the Arena, South Norwood, as well as talks about the destruction of the playing fields to the south of the Arena as a result of their use as a place to dump spill from the construction of Croydon Tramlink, and that no progress has been made with these talks.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to ask Croydon Council to bring the discussions with Croydon FC to a positive conclusion for both parties and for the South Norwood community.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling.]*

[P000826]

Mr Mohammed El Sharkawi

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that Mohammed El Sharkawi has been imprisoned in Eygpt without trial for 15 years despite sixteen court orders issued supporting his release, and the UN Working Group on Arbitary Detention deeming his incarceration unlawful.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to hold talks with the Egyptian administration to ensure Mr. Mohammed El Sharkawi is at last brought to a fair and just trial.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling.]*

[P000823]

Proposed Expansion (St Peter's School, Croydon)

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that the proposed expansion of St. Peter's Primary School, South Croydon for a "bulge class" in September 2010 and future expansion to 2FE (2 Form Entry) from 1FE will damage the ethos of the school when other suitable schools are currently undersubscribed and notes the massive disruption that will be caused to children at the school.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to ask Croydon Council to look at alternative arrangements for accommodating increased demand for school places.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling.]*

[P000825]

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Rates

The Petition of persons concerned by the increase in business rates,

Declares that with small businesses and entrepreneurs already struggling to survive in the current economic climate, a rise in business rates will have a severe impact. Notes that business rates set for April 2010 have been subject to a revaluation process based upon inflated rental values in 2008 and further notes that Northern Ireland has deferred business rate changes this year.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon the Government to stop these damaging business rate increases.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Burrowes, Official Report, 23 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 9P.]*

[P000772]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government notes that the five-yearly revaluations for business rates are intended to guarantee that each one pays its fair contribution and no more. This is done by making sure that the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects the changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. Overall, the amount of rates paid by businesses nationally does not increase as a result of five-yearly revaluations.

If demand rises in an area, rental values tend to increase relative to the national average and, if demand falls in an area, rental values tend to decrease relative to the national average. As these rental values form the basis of rateable values, revaluation allows each business to contribute according to the most recent information available.

The high property values in April 2008, upon which the 2010 revaluation was based, does not, thanks to the way business rates are calculated, automatically translate into higher bills. The multiplier has been reduced by 15 per cent.—taking it to its lowest level for 17 years. As

a result, although some people will see their rates bill fall and others will see them rise, the system is designed to ensure the Government do not collect an extra penny from revaluation.

The postponement of revaluation in Northern Ireland is a devolved decision based on very different local circumstances made by the Northern Ireland Assembly and as such it is a matter for them. Postponing revaluation would hit hard those businesses that most need our help, such as businesses in the Midlands and industry whose relative property value has fallen since the last revaluation and therefore should pay less in rates.

In fact, over a million properties—six out of every 10 business properties—will see their business rate liability fall as a result of this revaluation. For the minority of properties whose bills increase the Government have established a £2 billion transitional relief scheme to limit the impact of these rises. This means that no business property will see its rates rise by more than 11 per cent. as a result of revaluation in 2010-11, with increases capped at no more than 3.5 per cent. for small businesses.

The transitional relief scheme is in addition to the wider support available, like discounted rates bills for small firms and deferred tax payments for others, to help businesses deal with the current economic pressures. In addition, on 24 March, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Budget that the Government will increase for one year the level of small business rate relief. This means that eligible ratepayers will pay no rates on properties with rateable values up to £6,000, with a tapered relief of between 100 per cent. and 0 per cent. for properties with rateable values between £6,001 and £12,000. The new levels of relief will be available for 12 months from 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011.

HEALTH

Mayday Hospital A and E (Croydon)

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that Accident & Emergency at Mayday University Hospital should be protected and that the hospital's status should not be downgraded.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage the South West London Strategic Health Authority to maintain Mayday's status and A&E unit.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 29 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 606.]

[P000797]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

As part of the South West London sector review, clinicians are at the heart of the development of plans working with patients and partner organisations to develop a local strategy to deliver Healthcare for London, and any proposals recommended by clinicians will be assessed, tested and refined with key stakeholders. Health services need to change if they are to meet the needs of everyone in Croydon in the future. Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust will continue to provide modern, accessible and appropriate healthcare and changes to services at Mayday will only be considered if they support the best quality and safest outcomes for local people. NHS Croydon has kept stakeholders updated and they have been reassured that Mayday Hospital has a strong future in Croydon.

The review is at a very early stage, with no firm proposals having been put forward. It must be emphasised that any changes will be subject to a full and public consultation, which is not expected to begin before autumn 2010.

Although the Department of Health provides strategic leadership to the NHS and social care organisations in England, it is for local NHS organisations to plan, develop and improve services for local people. Therefore, any proposals for improvements to services are matters to be decided locally and it would be therefore wrong for the Secretary of State or Ministers to intervene.

TREASURY

Equitable Life (Tiverton and Honiton)

The Petition of residents of the constituency of Tiverton and Honiton in the Devon region of England regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life,

Declares that the petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Angela Browning, Official Report,* 11 November 2009; Vol. 499, c. 321.]

[P000421]

Petitions in same terms were also presented by the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) [P000415]; the right hon. Member for West Dorset (Mr. Letwin) [P000454]; and the hon. Member for Reading, East (Mr. Wilson) [P000629].

Petitions in the same terms were also presented from persons resident in the following constituencies: Woodspring [P000687]; and Chipping Barnet [P000640].

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

The Government responded to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report into the prudential regulation of Equitable Life on 15 January 2009. The Government have the greatest respect for the Office of the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's important role in the maintenance of standards of public service is unquestioned.

The Government are permitted, in certain circumstances, to reject the Ombudsman's findings and/or her recommendations for remedy. In this instance, where the Government departed from findings in her report, and her compensation recommendation, it did so only after very careful consideration.

The recent judgment in the judicial review of our response confirmed the legality of the Government's decision to reject the Ombudsman's compensation recommendation. With regard to her findings, the Court found in three instances that the Government had focused too narrowly on the issue of regulatory compliance, and we have accepted those findings.

The Government must act in a way that balances the legitimate interests of the taxpayer with those of policyholders affected by events at Equitable Life. The Ombudsman herself recognised in her report that the public interest is a relevant consideration. What this means is that it is appropriate to consider the impact on the general taxpayer of any payments.

A further issue is that the Ombudsman was only able within her remit to consider the role of the regulator and not the role and responsibility of Equitable Life and other parties. The Government do not believe that the taxpayer should fund payments for any losses attributable to other factors, such as market conditions or the actions of Equitable Life itself.

The Government also explained in their response that they do not believe that it is generally appropriate to pay compensation where there is regulatory failure. The responsibility to minimise risks and to prevent problems occurring in a particular financial institution lies, first and foremost, with the people who own and run that institution.

Nevertheless, the Government recognise that some policyholders have been disproportionately affected by the events at Equitable Life. There are strong reasons to act quickly to help those hardest hit. We remain firmly committed to introducing a fair ex gratia payment scheme as soon as possible. The ex gratia payment scheme will be developed based upon consideration of Sir John Chadwick's advice and to take into account other relevant considerations such as the position of the public finances. Our goal is to introduce a scheme that is administratively quicker and simpler to deliver than that envisaged by the Ombudsman.

The Government expect Sir John to submit his final report in May 2010 and have undertaken to provide a response within 14 days of its publication.

Petitions

Thursday 8 April 2010

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petition presented to the House on Wednesday 7 April 2010 but not read on the Floor

Extension of Franchise to 16-18 Year Olds

The Petition of the students of Coloma Convent High School and the people of Croydon,

Declares that the franchise should be extended to 16 and 17 year olds, so that 16-18 year olds who can currently pay tax, marry, start a family and join the armed forces can have influence in our democracy.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to bring in a bill to enfranchise 16 and 17 year olds.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling.]*

[P000822]

Petitions presented to the House on Thursday 8 April 2010 but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (Sunderland North)

The Petition of persons resident in the Sunderland North parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000828]

Equitable Life (Henley)

The Petition of residents of the constituency of Henley in the Oxford region of the U.K regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life,

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000829]

Student Visas

The Petition of residents of Cambridge (English UK & EFL Organisations),

Declares that the current review of the Tier 4 points based system for Student Visas may result in many fewer legitimate students travelling to the UK to learn English. Further declares that this will lead to the closure of many language schools and reduce the number of foreign students that go into higher education in the United Kingdom.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government whilst recognising the importance of Immigration Control to proceed in a way that does not disadvantage English language schools

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000827]

OBSERVATIONS

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Badman Report (Teignbridge)

The Petition of persons resident in the Teignbridge parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home

Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Richard Younger-Ross, Official Report,* 6 April 2010; Vol. 508, c. 29P.]

[P000819]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:

DCSF commissioned the Badman review of home education in January 2009 and the report was published on 11 June 2009. As part of the review, Graham Badman took written and oral evidence from a range of individuals and organisations who responded to his public call for evidence, including home educators and local authorities. Alongside this he also considered published literature, the current legal position and guidance and the approaches taken in other countries. He was assisted by an expert reference group. I am confident that his report draws from a wide and heterogeneous evidence base.

The Children, Schools and Families Select Committee also considered the Badman report and was supportive of most of the recommendations. It agreed that a short statement of educational approach would be helpful in establishing dialogue between home educating families and local authorities; that an annual meeting between local authorities and home educators was needed; and that better support for home educators and better training for local authorities would together lead to an improvement on the current arrangements.

Our proposals to legislate for a light touch registration and monitoring scheme for home educating families have now been removed from the Children, Schools and Families Bill to enable some parts of the Bill to be passed into law before Parliament is dissolved. However, Government remain committed to introducing such a scheme and to the provision of additional support for home educating families.

High School Provision (Stoke-on-Trent South)

The Petition of residents of Stoke-on-Trent and others,

Declares that there is a desire among the people of the city of Stoke-on-Trent that there should be a High School serving the communities of Longton, Meir, Weston Coyney, Normacot, Dresden, and other areas in that vicinity.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons call upon the Government to take steps to instruct Stoke-on-Trent City Council that it may, as part of the BSF programme, have a "two-school solution" to the issue of the location of the new 20:20 Academy, thereby building a new school on the fields adjacent to Longton High School and continuing to use the Mitchell High School.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Robert Flello, Official Report,* 30 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 786.]

[P000801]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:

It is the responsibility of the Local Authority (Stoke-on-Trent City Council) to determine the estates strategy that will be applied to the delivery of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) in Stoke-on-Trent. I understand that the Local Authority's vision is now well developed and ready for detailed planning to start. The Local Authority could however, choose to re-examine its estates strategy, and submit a revised Outline Business Case in the light of its re-examination. There is no barrier to the Local Authority bringing forward a revised proposal should it wish to do so; incorporating an altered number of schools or altered locations. There is a risk however that this may delay the delivery of BSF in the city, as a new Outline Business Case would need to be assessed and approved. The existing proposals would need to be placed on hold while any changes to the existing estates strategy were considered. If the delay was prolonged, the allocation of funding for this project may run beyond the deadline by which the current allocation of funding is required to be spent.

It is for the Local Authority to identify a suitable site for the Discovery Academy. I understand that the Local Authority is conducting a feasibility study on a number of sites, and is currently undertaking consultation on this matter, so the ultimate site has yet to be confirmed.

HEALTH

Diabetes Services (Croydon)

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that in Croydon there is good work being done to combat diabetes and that Croydon now needs more screening tests for diabetes; more albumin creative ratio checks and HbA1C tests for those already living with diabetes; and Government support for Croydon's services that combat the diabetic arterial diseases that can lead to amputations; and that with the right support amputations could be cut by 30 per cent. through better total care and public health education to allow for earlier intervention to stop amputations.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to support Croydon's services that combat the diabetic arterial diseases and to encourage health providers to make available more screening tests for diabetes and more albumin creative ratio checks and HbA1C tests fur those already living with diabetes.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 30 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 790.]

[P000813]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The Diabetes National Service Framework highlights the importance of people with diabetes having regular checks. The annual review enables the person with diabetes and their healthcare professional to discuss the results of key tests and measurements, and for any complications to be identified as early as possible.

The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) rewards practices for the number of patients with diabetes who receive key care processes, including measuring blood pressure, HbAlc (blood glucose) and cholesterol.

Although the Department of Health provides strategic leadership to the NHS and social care organisations in England, it is for local NHS organisations to plan, develop and improve services for local people.

Croydon PCT considers the improvement of the overall performance on the HbAlc target to be a key priority. The PCT is also working to improve access to and consistency of specialist diabetes care during admission to hospital for other reasons.

GPs (Croydon)

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that having only three GPs on call from midnight to 8am covering 370,000 residents in Croydon is clearly inadequate and forces Croydon residents into more expensive care at A&E thus wasting public money.

The Petitioners therefore call upon the House of Commons to urge the Government to direct Croydon NHS to provide for more GP overnight coverage.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 30 March 2010; Vol. 789, c. 508.]

[P000812]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

PCTs have a responsibility to ensure they provide, or secure provision of, a sustainable out of hours GP service for their local population in line with National Quality Requirements.

The National Quality Requirements require providers to demonstrate their ability to meet predictable fluctuations in demand. PCTs and their providers should provide the level of resource needed to meet the National Quality Requirements.

Where a provider is failing to meet the Quality Requirements, PCTs as commissioners of the service and SHAs must act to support providers to improve their performance. NHS London will provide any support necessary to Croydon PCT if the organisation is not meeting the National Quality Requirements.

Although the Department of Health provides strategic leadership to the NHS and social care organisations in England, it is for local NHS organisations to plan, develop and improve services for local people.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Christian Values

The Petition of Premier Christian Radio and others,

Declares that 20,000 Christians have stated, in a campaign organised by Premier Christian Radio, that they intend to vote in the forthcoming election in line with Christian values; and that the Petitioners believe that business as usual has damaged the credibility of Parliament and is unacceptable.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons take all steps necessary to restore the credibility of Parliament.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Sir Alan Beith, Official Report,* 7 April 2010; Vol. 508, c. 1145.]

[P000821]

Observations from the Leader of the House of Commons:

The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority was established in July 2009 by the Parliamentary Standards Act to ensure the allowances system is governed by independent external regulation. The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority announced the new scheme for MPs' allowances on 29 March; the scheme can be viewed at: http://www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk/. The new scheme will be in place for the beginning of the next Parliament.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 22 March 2010

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Bearwood Corporate Services

Mr. Gordón Prentice: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission (1) if the Electoral Commission will place in the Library a copy of the report of its investigation into Bearwood Corporate Services; [322794]

(2) if the Electoral Commission will place in the Library a list of the officials and staff of the Conservative party who did not accept the invitation for interview with representatives of the Electoral Commission as part of its investigations into Bearwood Corporate Services; [322795]

(3) if the Electoral Commission will place in the Library a copy of the report by forensic accountants commissioned as part of the Electoral Commission's investigations into Bearwood Corporate Services. [322796]

Mr. Streeter: I will give the hon. Member a substantive reply as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Gary Streeter to Gordon Prentice:

The Electoral Commission informs me that, consistent with its disclosure policy, it has published on its website a case summary setting out the issues considered by the Commission during the course of the investigation, the information obtained in relation to those issues, and the legal basis for the conclusions the Commission reached.

The Commission further informs me that, in the interests of effective regulation and having regard to the confidentiality and sensitivity of information provided, and the privacy and confidentiality of those involved, it is not the Commission's practice to release further information obtained during an investigation.

Trade Unions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission which trade unions have registered with the Electoral Commission as a registered third party in respect of the forthcoming general election to date; and how much Unite has spent as a registered third party to date. [323831]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that as of 19 March 2010 seven trade unions have registered with the Commission as recognised third parties. These are Community, the National Union of Teachers, the Public and Commercial Services Union, the Educational Institute of Scotland, Unison, Unite and USDAW. The Commission further informs me that recognised third parties must report their regulated spending to the Commission after the general election.

WALES

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323079]

Mr. Hain: My Department does not procure any meat or dairy products.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323454]

Mr. Hain: No.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323076]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not procure any meat or dairy products, with the exception of small quantities of milk on which we have not logged any particular certification.

PRIME MINISTER

Community Relations

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1304W, on building resilience, whether the paper from the Civil Contingencies Secretariat entitled "Building Resilience: a new approach to crisis" by M. S. D. Granatt, Head of GICS, Cabinet Office and J. P. Macintosh DSTL, Ministry of Defence, published in July 2001 and revised in February 2002 is classified. [323330]

The Prime Minister: Yes. The paper "Building Resilience: a new approach to crisis" is classified.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Office has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321981]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Tessa Jowell) on 17 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 866W.

Intelligence and Security Committee

David Davis: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 861W, when he expects the views of the Intelligence and Security Committee to be published. [322313]

The Prime Minister: The Government remain committed to publishing both the guidance and the views of the Intelligence and Security Committee as soon as possible.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department and its agencies. [322573]

Mr. Woodward: The Civil Service People Survey was not carried out within the Northern Ireland Office (NIO). However, a separate NIO staff attitude survey was carried out within the Department in May and June 2009. A copy of the overall results of this survey has been placed in the Library.

Fines: Non-payment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are in prison in Northern Ireland as a result of non-payment of fines. [323324]

Paul Goggins: On 18 March 2010 there were 28 persons in prison in Northern Ireland as a result of non-payment of fines.

Magilligan Prison

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are expected to be employed in the *(a)* construction and *(b)* running of the new prison at HM Prison Magilligan. [323323]

Paul Goggins: It is too early to provide specific answers, but it is estimated that between 150 and 300 people could be working on site, depending on procurement method and stage of construction.

The new design would entail more cost effective staffing when the prison is operational.

Youth Custody

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* young adults and *(b)* women were serving a custodial sentence in prison in Northern Ireland in (i) January 2010, (ii) January 2009 and (iii) January 2008. [323325]

Paul Goggins: The information for the last Monday in each month is provided in the following table.

	Young offenders serving a sentence	*Women serving a sentence*
25 January 2008	77	21
26 January 2009	85	18
28 January 2010	83	16

Young offenders are defined as being aged 18 to 21 years. Upon attaining 21 years they are deemed to be adults and can be sent to an adult prison.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* minimum number of years of over-paid council tax is that should be refunded to local taxpayers when a council tax banding error has been identified by the Valuation Office Agency; and what guidance has been issued to local authorities on this matter. [323104]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 952-53W. No guidance has been issued to local authorities on this matter.

Council Tax: Empty Property

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 896W, on council tax: empty property, whether the additional revenue raised under the recalculation of the council tax base for the 2011-12 settlement will be retained by local authorities. [323039]

Barbara Follett: All council tax revenue is retained by local authorities. Each local authority's council tax base is calculated for the purposes of formula grant distribution, and is the number of Band D equivalent properties in their authority.

Departmental Records

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when his Department's headquarters were last reviewed for compliance with the Public Records Acts; and what the results were of that review. [322839]

Barbara Follett: The Department's headquarters were reviewed by the National Archives for compliance with both the Public Records Acts and Lord Chancellor's Section 46 Code of Practice for Records Management under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in 2007. The outcome of the review was published on the National Archives website. This can be found at:

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/dclg-summary-report.doc

The outcome includes evidence of good practice, the challenges faced and recommendations. The Department also has put in place arrangements to ensure that records

are managed on a day-to-day basis to comply with the requirements of the Public Records Acts and officials meet regularly with the National Archives to review record-keeping arrangements.

Departmental Temporary Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department undertakes equality and diversity monitoring of agency staff recruited to work at its headquarters. [322841]

Barbara Follett: Our contracted supplier for temporary staff is Reed and, as part of their contract, they are required to monitor the diversity of the staff they provide to the Department. The data include staff provided to the Government Offices and the Government Equalities Office (GEO). They report to us on a monthly basis, with the report covering nationality, ethnicity, gender, age and disability.

Fire Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has provided guidance to fire and rescue authorities on the use of socio-demographic profiling to inform decisions on the provision of fire and rescue services. [308427]

Mr. Malik: A range of IRMP-related guidance has been issued to FRAs and is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/developingfuture/integratedriskmanagement/

The guidance, which is non-prescriptive, is designed to provide advice and assistance on IRMP and its associated processes, allowing local authorities and local communities to make appropriate decisions at the local level.

The Department has also provided each fire and rescue service with a suite of software called the fire service emergency cover (FSEC) toolkit. This toolkit allows each fire and rescue service to undertake a risk-based assessment of their area. FSEC is based upon a geographical information system, which takes account of a range of factors including socio-economic and geo-demographic data, and uses bespoke software to calculate the probable losses based on a particular set of response strategies in terms of lives lost and property costs. That then enables the FRA to determine its optimum prevention, protection and response strategies appropriate to its own area.

The Department has also recently published research on socio-demographics and fire risk, which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/frsperformanceanalysis

Fire Services: Standards

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average response time was for a fire appliance to attend *(a)* a dwelling fire with persons involved, *(b)* a dwelling fire with no persons involved, *(c)* a fire in a non-dwelling building, *(d)* a road vehicle fire and *(e)* an outdoor fire broken down by (i) region, (ii) fire service family group and (iii) local authority in each of the last three years. [320846]

Mr. Malik: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Housing: Conferences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department attended the MIPIM international property conference in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009; [323282]

(2) how much his Department expects to spend on *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation for (i) Ministers and (ii) officials attending the MIPIM international property conference in March 2010; [323283]

(3) how much he expects to be spent by the Homes and Communities Agency on *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation for officials attending the MIPIM international property conference in March 2010. [323285]

Barbara Follett: In 2007, 2008 and 2009, the MIPIM conference was attended by the following officials from Communities and Local Government:

2007

Director General, Policy Programmes and Innovation

2008

Director General, Housing and Planning

Director General, Tackling Disadvantage

Director General, Finance and Corporate Services

2009

Director General, Housing and Planning

Director General, Regions and Communities

No departmental Ministers or officials have attended the MIPIM conference in 2010, either at the expense of the Department or at the invitation of the Homes and Communities Agency. Therefore, no costs were incurred by HCA for this purpose.

Local Government Act 1976

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will amend section 11 of the Local Government Act 1976 to permit local authorities to sell electricity other than that produced in association with heat. [323160]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

The Government published a consultation document on proposals to allow local authorities to sell electricity they generate themselves from renewable sources on 2 March.

We believe that local authorities should play a full part in the development of renewable heat and electricity. Allowing local authorities to sell electricity generated by them from renewable sources is expected to encourage the development of local renewable electricity projects by those local authorities that are well-placed to undertake such projects either on their own or in partnerships.

The consultation document can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/loc_auth_elec/loc_auth_elec.aspx

and has a closing date for responses of 2 June 2010.

Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his latest estimate is of the take-up rate of small business rate relief in each local authority area. [323033]

Barbara Follett: The report "Small business rate relief—improving evidence on eligibility and take-up: Methodology", published on 9 December 2009, provides details of the methodology to estimate take-up of small business rate relief. This methodology can only be applied nationally for England as a whole. Therefore it is not possible to calculate an estimate of take-up for each local authority. This report is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/local government/smallbusinessmethod

However, new experimental statistics on the number of hereditaments claiming small business rate relief (SBRR), published on the Communities and Local Government website on 25 February 2010, show that 462,000 hereditaments in England were benefiting from SBRR on 31 December 2008.

By applying that figure to the eligibility estimates made for the 2005 rating list it is estimated that around 80 per cent. of eligible hereditaments in England were claiming SBRR in 2008-09—see table 1.

Relief granted to small businesses has been increasing since SBRR was introduced—from £202 million in 2005-06 to £298 million in 2008-09. This represents a real terms increase of 34 per cent. This suggests that 92 per cent. of the maximum amount of relief that could be claimed is being taken up, up from 69 per cent. in the first year of the scheme—see table 2.

This statistical release is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/sbrrfeb2010

The report "Small business rate relief—improving evidence on eligibility and take-up: Methodology" will be updated to take account of these new numbers.

Table 1: Take-up of SBRR—numbers claiming

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Number of hereditaments actually claiming SBRR (thousand)	396	433	462
Number of hereditaments eligible (thousand)	575	575	575
Percentage of estimated eligible actually claiming	69	75%	80

Table 2: Take-up of SBRR 2005-06 to 2008-09—relief

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Relief available (£ million)	295	300	315	325
Relief claimed (£ million)	202	237	259	298
Take-up (percentage)	69	78	83	92

Schools: Carbon Emissions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local education authorities will be liable for the carbon dioxide emissions of maintained schools under the Carbon Reduction Commitment process. [323143]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Maintained schools will be grouped with their relevant maintaining local authority (LEA) for the purposes of CRC qualification and participation. The exception is PFI schools deemed to be responsible for the energy supply under the CRC, which will participate individually or as part of their PFI corporate structure.

This grouping approach brings schools that would not have otherwise qualified into the scheme, thereby enabling the public sector to demonstrate leadership in carbon reduction and realise the cost-effective energy efficiency opportunities across the schools' estate.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which staff from his Department have visited Afghanistan in each month since 2007. [322515]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Military and civilian staff from the Ministry of Defence are required to visit Afghanistan on a regular basis in support of current operations. The number and posts of those visiting in each month since 2007 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Compensation

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has paid to relatives of servicemen killed in action in each of the last five years. [321372]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is not possible to provide a definitive figure for all aspects of the payments made to bereaved families as benefits are payable under a range of different provisions and, as the information is not held centrally, it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Armed Forces Pension Scheme provides a death-in-service lump sum and the appropriate family forces pensions, including enhanced payments where death is related to service. It is estimated that at least £14 million has been paid in death-in-service lump sums over the last five years to the families of those killed in action.

The War Pension Scheme provides for ongoing payments to families of personnel killed, as a result of service, before 6 April 2005, with the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) making that provision for those who

have died since that date. In addition to a Guaranteed Income Payment, a Bereavement Grant of up to £20,000 is payable under AFCS. Payments amounting to some £8.8 million have been made to bereaved families under AFCS since 2005 including those killed in a non-operational environment where death was attributable to service.

Funeral grants are also payable where a service funeral is held or the cost of a private funeral (up to a current maximum of £2,786) will be met. In the region of £112,000 has been paid in funeral costs. In addition costs associated with family attendance at repatriation ceremonies and any pre-inquest and inquest hearings are met by the MOD.

Armed Forces: Drugs

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 7-8W, on armed forces: discharges, how many compulsory drug tests the Army has carried out in each quarter since January 2008; and how many positive tests for *(a)* cocaine, *(b)* ecstasy and *(c)* cannabis there were in each such quarter. [322535]

Bill Rammell: The number of compulsory drug tests undertaken by the Army in each quarter since January 2008 and the positive results for cocaine, ecstasy and cannabis are shown in the following table:

Period	*Number of tests*	*Cocaine*	*Ecstasy*	*Cannabis*
2008				
1 January-31 March	19,885	92	10	47
1 April-30 June	24,787	152	10	49
1 July-30 September	19,978	95	10	31
1 October-31 December	25,189	88	2	44
2009				
1 January-31 March	25,045	65	3	43
1 April-30 June	26,932	70	3	65
1 July-30 September	26,210	55	0	58
1 October-31 December	24,762	47	0	37

Armed Forces: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding has been allocated to *(a)* cadet forces and *(b)* the Territorial Army on Merseyside in 2009-10. [322633]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held centrally.

Funding for the cadet forces in any particular area comes from a wide variety of sources including the single services, the use of subsidised accommodation, and local donations and fundraising efforts. To determine how much funding has been allocated to a specific unit would require a manual search of records and incur disproportionate cost.

Territorial Army (TA) funding is provided not only through the Army but also from different sources dependent on how the infrastructure is shared. For example, funding may be generated by allowing another organisation, such as the Air Training Corps or Sea Cadets, to use the facility when not required for TA activity. This allows for the most efficient use of resources. To determine how much funding has been provided to Merseyside would require the manual search of records ranging from local agreements through to more formal arrangements with the single services, thus incurring disproportionate cost.

The Government remain committed to the TA and the cadet forces. The TA continues to play a vital role in support of the Regular Army, not least on operations in Afghanistan. The Cadet Organisation dates back 150 years. It is one of the oldest and most successful voluntary youth organisations in the world. Today it numbers 131,000 young people, led by 25,000 adult volunteers, in well over 3,000 sites across the country.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many abnormal safety events were recorded at the Atomic Weapons Establishment in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and how many of those events were classified as having the potential to challenge a nuclear safety system. [319191]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) defines an abnormal event (AE) as any action or series of actions that causes a deviation from the planned course of events. An AE need not cause physical harm to persons, property or the environment, and AEs may cover quality and security issues as well as safety.

AEs are classified into seven different categories; five of these are considered to be related to safety. The total number of AEs in these five categories was 4,020 in 2008 and 3,911 in 2009. Of these, three in each year were assessed as having the potential, in the absence of remedial action, to challenge a nuclear safety system. None of these six actually did, and none resulted in any harm.

All reported AEs are investigated as appropriate; in particular, the six events referred to above were subject to detailed investigations, and all necessary remedial action has been completed to the satisfaction of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

The aim of the AWE reporting system is to identify all AEs, however minor, and the number of AEs is considered to be a reflection of the robustness of the system and the vigilance of the AWE work force.

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department and its non-departmental bodies are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323070]

Mr. Quentin Davies: For UK armed forces personnel "in barracks", when personnel are not being fed under the catering retail and leisure contracts, and those serving on operations and overseas exercises, there is a single food supply contractor, Purple Foodservice Solutions (PFS).

PFS increasingly takes into account ethical and sustainable criteria in their procurement, and is required to seek best value for money in the open market consistent with meeting Ministry of Defence food quality standards which are linked to the Office of Government Commerce food quality standards.

PFS procures meat and dairy proteins in the UK that meet the Red Tractor Scheme (a UK farm assured scheme which is the equivalent to the RSPCA Freedom Foods scheme) and UK animal welfare standards. Any which are purchased outside the UK comply with the EU animal welfare standards.

Dairy products meet the Red Tractor requirements, and eggs meet the Lion Standard, an internationally recognised quality code of practice.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 849W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign. [321932]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The costs of the redesigns were as follows:

	Website and URL	*Cost (£)*
2005-06	MOD corporate website http://www.mod.uk	400,000
2007-08		150,000
2005-06	Royal Navy http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk	270,000
2007		110,000
2008[1]	British Army http://www.army.mod.uk	266,500
2006-07	Royal Air Force http://www.raf.mod.uk	119,579

[1] The British Army website redesign launched on 30 May 2008; the redesign project launched in 2006 and preparatory design work was carried out between 2006 and 2008.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321994]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following designs have been commissioned since 2005.

Date	*Work commissioned*	*Cost (£)*
March 2006	Enhancements to publishing templates and introduction of a new "Business Processes" area.	[1]96,590
December 2007	Re-branding of the intranet to encompass military content.	29,238
July 2009	Complete site re-design as part of upgrade from Microsoft Content Management System (CMS) 2002 to Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007.	[2]200,000

[1] Includes design and code development.
[2] Includes requirements capture and design.

A number of other internal websites are run by different parts of the Ministry of Defence, but these are not managed centrally. Information on these sites could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Ministry of Defence is progressively reducing the number of internal websites and migrating their content across to the Defence intranet.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department spent on maintaining its Flickr channel in 2009-10; [322526]

(2) how many people his Department employs to maintain its social media and social networking sites; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available; [322529]

(3) how much his Department spent on maintaining its Twitter feeds in the latest period for which figures are available; [322530]

(4) how much his Department spent on maintaining its YouTube channel in the latest period for which figures are available. [322607]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There is no one MOD employee whose main role is to maintain social media and social networking sites, Twitter, YouTube or Flickr, although there are some for whom it is a small part of their role alongside their other duties.

My Department has spent $30 on a single Flickr 'Pro' licence, for the Royal Military College Sandhurst.

The official, sponsored and affiliated social media presences of the Ministry of Defence and the armed forces are listed at

http://www.blogs.mod.uk/homepage.html

Departmental Manpower

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian staff are employed principally to operate his Department's White Fleet of vehicles. [322848]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A Contract Management Team comprising 15 civilian posts manages the UK White Fleet contract on behalf of the MOD. Other civilian staff are involved in managing White Fleet activity at a local level across MOD; this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department and its agencies. [322576]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Yes. The document—October 2009 MOD Your Say Survey results (part of the Civil Service People Survey)—will be placed in the Library of the House.

These results are also available on the MOD website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/HrStrategyCivilianContinuousAttitudeSurveys.htm

The document for UK Hydrographic Office results will also be placed in the Library of the House shortly. No other trading funds participated in the 2009 survey.

Departmental Travel

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on travel for its civilian staff between *(a)* London and Edinburgh, *(b)* London and Glasgow and *(c)* London and the rest of Scotland in each of the last five years. [321701]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Travel between London and Scotland may be undertaken by a number of methods of travel (e.g. road, rail, air, coach). This information is not recorded by location and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Devonport Dockyard

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department will make a decision on the future base-porting of frigates currently base-ported in Devonport Naval Base. [323267]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 890W, to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock).

Future Rapid Effect System

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects to announce his decision on the preferred bidder for the Future Rapid Effect System armoured reconnaissance vehicle contract; [323169]

(2) what advice his Department received from the Treasury in connection with the choice of design for the Future Rapid Effect System armoured reconnaissance vehicle. [323170]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Future Rapid Effect System programme has been recast from a single programme into a set of constituent projects, namely: the Specialist Vehicles; the Utility Vehicles; and the Manoeuvre Support Vehicles. An announcement on the competition for the Specialist Vehicle project has been made today in a written ministerial statement by the Secretary of State for Defence.

HM Treasury has provided no advice to the Department regarding the choice of design for the Specialist Vehicle capability. The MOD reached its own decision on the choice of design based on the advice of expert assessment panels.

Group 4 Securicor

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with Group 4 Securicor on its proposals to have outsourced to the private security industry those services which are detailed in the unprinted paper reported to the House by the Defence Committee on 10 February 2010; and if he will make a statement. [322507]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 17 March 2010]:* The Ministry of Defence has a number of existing agreements with Group 4 Securicor for the provision of Defence services. We are aware of the range of services that the company offers and it is, of course, free to compete for additional Ministry of Defence business through established procedures. My officials engage with Group 4 Securicor on both current business and potential future opportunities as required.

HMS Gannet

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many search and rescue call-outs there were from HMS Gannet between 1 March 2009 and 28 February 2010. [322857]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* The numbers of search and rescue call-outs from HMS Gannet between 1 March 2009 and 31 January 2010 are as follows:

Month	*Callouts*
2009	
March	33
April	35
May	46
June	35
July	41
August	44
September	36
October	32
November	39
December	42
2010	
January	37
Total	445

Official Statistics guidelines do not allow the release of data prior to their official publication. The Official Statistics for February 2010 are due to be released by Defence Analytical Services and Advice on Monday 29 March. Search and rescue statistics can be found at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Hotels

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* renting accommodation and *(b)* hotel costs for its civilian staff attending meetings in Scotland in the last 12 months. [321702]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Civilian employees are unlikely to use or stay in rented accommodation for a business meeting. Employees may rent accommodation temporarily as a result of a transfer but information on this or hotel costs for meetings in Scotland is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 4 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 704W, on helicopters, when he plans to write to the hon. Member for Woodspring. [314287]

Bill Rammell: I wrote to the hon. Member on 5 March.

Middle East: Military Attachés

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to which countries in the Middle East a UK defence attaché is posted. [320967]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Minister for Veterans (Mr. Jones) on 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1366W.

Navy: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many naval vessels are permanently based in Scotland; and how many have been permanently based in Scotland in each year since 1997. [317783]

Bill Rammell: The Royal Navy currently has five submarines and eight surface vessels based in Scotland. The details for each year since 1997 are shown in the following table.

Number of RN vessels base port in Scotland

	Surface	*Submarine*
1997	11	8
1998	11	9
1999	11	9
2000	13	9
2001	14	9
2002	15	9
2003	13	8
2004	13	8
2005	12	8
2006	9	6
2007	8	6
2008	8	5
2009	8	5
2010	8	5

The fluctuations in submarine numbers reflect the gradual drawdown of the Swiftsure class vessels, as they reach the end of their in-service life. Over the next few years, as HM Naval Base Clyde becomes the main operating base for all classes of submarines, there will be a gradual transfer of three Trafalgar class submarines from Devonport to Faslane. In the future, the Astute class and the replacement for the Vanguard class will also be based in Scotland.

The number of surface ships initially increased over this period, reflecting the move of the Sandown class mine counter-measure vessels to Scotland, then decreased reflecting the subsequent disbandment of the Northern Ireland Squadron following the NI Accord. The numbers are commensurate with the reduction in the surface fleet numbers as a whole throughout this period.

Additionally some 23 small boats allocated to the Royal Marines are currently maintained in Scotland. These are not allocated to a base port in the same way as larger vessels; details of the numbers maintained in Scotland since 1997 are not available.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 16WS, which provided clarity to future base-porting regarding the three naval bases under the Maritime Change Programme.

Nimrod Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the Nimrod MR2 modification programme announced in March 2009. [322845]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The cost of replacing a number of fuel seals and the engine hot air ducts on the Nimrod aircraft, as announced on 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, together with associated maintenance work, was in the order of £16 million.

RAF Coningsby

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the fast jet test and evaluation advice available at RAF Coningsby is provided in-house. [322787]

Bill Rammell: On 1 April 2010, the Fast Jet Test Squadron, currently based at MOD Boscombe Down, will complete its merger with 17 (Reserve) and 41 (Reserve) Squadrons. Under this new arrangement, most fast jet test flying will be conducted by the two RAF squadrons at RAF Coningsby. Evaluation advice will be provided jointly by QinetiQ and MOD personnel at RAF Coningsby and MOD Boscombe Down. A fast jet experimental flight, and the fast jets owned by QinetiQ, will remain at MOD Boscombe Down.

Rescue Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to respond to the petition on SAR Chivenor presented to the Prime Minister on 25 February 2010. [322844]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence is in receipt of the petition and I will write to the hon. Member, as the petition organiser, shortly.

Rescue Services: Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timetable has been set for signing the search and rescue helicopter contract with Soteria Consortium. [322843]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Subject to finalisation, it is expected that the contract will be signed later in 2010. This is anticipated to be in good time to allow the service to commence in 2012.

Royal Hospital Haslar

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether contractual provisions were included in the documentation for the sale by Defence Estates of the Royal Hospital Haslar to ensure that the vision for the future of the site referred to in the letter from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence to the hon. Member for Gosport of 16 July 2009 would be fulfilled. [321679]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The future of the site is now a matter for Gosport borough council as the local planning authority.

As I set out in my written ministerial statement on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 94-95WS, Our Enterprise has a vision of promoting the quality of life for both individuals residing on the site and for Gosport as a whole and will continue social and health care on the site by providing a "Veterans Village", student accommodation, community healthcare and a commercial centre as well as residential uses.

Contractual provisions between the Ministry of Defence and the purchaser affecting the development of the site were not included in the sale documentation for the sale of the Haslar site.

University Officer Training Corps

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had on *(a)* the funding and *(b)* the participation of students in officer training corps units at universities; and if he will make a statement. [322613]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Government fully recognise the value of the University Royal Naval Units, the Officer Training Corps, the University Air Squadrons and the Defence Training Undergraduate Scheme. They allow individuals to develop skills that are extremely valuable in a future career either within the armed forces or without.

Each of the services is looking at how best to support the University Training Units; until those decisions are finalised I cannot speculate about future funding levels.

No University Training Units have closed as a result of changes to funding during this financial year. Despite some reduction in attendance by Officer Cadets at University Officer Training Corps they remain oversubscribed against their establishment. The average actual strength in 2009 was around 3,500. This is against an establishment figure of 2,946.

JUSTICE

Arrest Warrants

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account was taken of each of the criteria in the Government's code of practice on consultation in preparing his Department's consultation on arrest warrants and universal jurisdiction. [323262]

Claire Ward: The question of arrest warrants for universal jurisdiction offences is not the subject of a consultation exercise. Given the importance of the issue, however, the Government thought it right to seek views from a small number of interested parties.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the remit of the National Victims Fund will extend to British residents who are victims of crimes committed abroad. [323278]

Claire Ward: The Victims Fund is used to provide funding to third sector organisations that support those bereaved by homicide. These services are provided by third sector organisations and are available to British residents in England and Wales regardless of where the homicide takes place.

Applications for the 2010-11 fund are being processed and results will be announced shortly.

The National Victims' Service will provide services to victims of crime who are resident in England and Wales regardless of where the crime takes place.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what services his Department provides for the families of British victims of homicides committed abroad. [323279]

Claire Ward: The Ministry of Justice provides funding to the charities Victim Support and SAMM National (Support After Murder and Manslaughter) to deliver services to those bereaved by homicide. The service provided by Victim Support is available to anyone in England and Wales regardless of where the homicide takes place.

The Justice Secretary recently announced the launch of a National Victims' Service. The first part of the service has begun with the introduction of the homicide scheme which will be delivered by Victim Support. This will provide focused support for each bereaved person and a range of commissioned services. Residents in England and Wales who are bereaved are entitled to support under this scheme wherever the homicide takes place.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will publish the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey relating to his Department; [322308]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department and its agencies. [322565]

Mr. Straw: I will arrange for the results from the Civil Service People Survey for the Ministry of Justice and its agencies to be placed in the Library of each House.

Juries: North West

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people resident in Leeds North West constituency have been summoned for jury service *(a)* once, *(b)* twice, *(c)* three times and *(d)* four times in each year since 2005. [322699]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows, on a national level basis for each calendar year from 2000-08, the following:

(a) how many people have been required for jury service

(b) how many people have been supplied to the court for jury service

(c) how many people have been deferred from the original date they were summoned for jury service

(d) how many people have been excused from jury service

(e) how many people have been disqualified from jury service

The Jury Central Summoning Bureau (JCSB) is not able to supply the information for Leeds North West as the data cannot be extracted in this way by the computer system.

The JCSB is also unable to provide information on how many people have been summoned for jury service more than once. This is because jurors are selected on a completely random basis by the JCSB using the electoral voting registers supplied annually by each local authority. As the electoral registers are updated annually and due to the randomness of jury selection there is potential for some members of the public to be called for jury service more than once while some may never be called.

	Calendar year end								
	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total number of summons issues	79,115	579,473	492,561	461,980	431,432	388,154	390,671	412,666	416,689
Total number of jurors supplied to the court	24,907	187,080	197,599	184,833	187,114	185,193	181,966	182,661	183,506
Deferred to serve at a later date	8,860	61,435	59,786		65,754	63,741	61,254	66,174	66,806
Number refused deferral	22	214	297	340	288	286	172	122	103
Excused - by right having served in past two years	4,700	32,368	29,120	28,247	14,887	4,333	4,277	4,518	4,244
Excused - Child Care	3,410	27,685	26,281	24,327	19,497	15,741	15,690	16,118	15,711
Excused - Work Commitments	2,781	26,640	25,628	19,373	14,961	14,419	15,998	16,428	16,857
Excused - Medical	5,650	44,435	40,982	35,061	34,016	32,239	30,332	32,416	31,289
Excused - Travel Difficulties	186	2,394	1,811	1,110	813	672	720	651	690
Excused - Student	736	5,468	5,899	3,979	2,438	2,150	2,209	2,273	2,429
Excused - Moved From Area	1,549	11,073	6,254	3,419	2,498	2,181	2,454	2,988	2,543
Excused - Language Difficulties	849	5,921	5,928	5,260	4,975	4,081	4,030	4,406	4,165
Excused - Other	2,521	20,678	22,354	22,400	23,103	21,658	24,126	27,784	30,606
All excused	22,382	176,662	164,257	143,176	117,188	97,474	99,836	107,582	108,534
Number refused excusal	421	2,494	1,927	3,453	4,344	3,585	2,053	1,641	1,515
Disqualified - residency, mental disorders, criminality	15,248	118,339	105,714	98,045	89,112	77,364	85,061	94,171	96,325
Disqualified - on selection	5,989	48,271	59,892	58,830	55,410	49,765	53,031	58,900	59,017
Disqualified - failed Police National Computer (PNC) check	0	69	160	139	148	193	185	207	225

Lionel Crabb

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make available for public inspection in the National Archives all papers relating to the disappearance and death in 1956 of Commander Buster Lionel Crabb RN, OBE, GM; and if he will make a statement. [322999]

Mr. Wills: The National Archives hold a number of records relating to the disappearance of Commander Buster Lionel Crabb (PREM 11/2077; CAB21/3887; F0371/122885; and ADM 1/29241), all of which are available for public inspection. Some portions of these records however have been retained by the transferring Departments under section 3.4 of the Public Records Act. Where records are retained, this is the decision of the relevant Department.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many indeterminate sentences for public protection handed down *(a)* between 14 July and 31 December 2008 and *(b)* in 2009 were given with tariffs of no more than 23 months. [323013]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 93-94W.

Prisoners: Death

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many deaths of prisoners serving a determinate sentence were recorded in each year since 2005; how many such deaths were self-inflicted; and how many determinate sentenced prisoners there were in each of those years; [323011]

(2) how many incidents of self-harm were recorded by prisoners serving a determinate sentence in each year since 2005. [323012]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is combined in the following table:

Determinate sentenced prisoners[1]	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[2]	*2010*[3]
Population	56,375	56,218	56,120	56,852	n/a	n/a
Deaths in custody	94	94	85	98	78	20
Self-inflicted deaths only	29	36	29	25	20	4
Self-harm incidents	13,128	12,241	10,719	11,730	n/a	n/a

[1] Determinate prisoners in this answer are defined as those recorded as serving the following sentences: less than or equal to six months; more than six months but less than 12 months; more than or equal to 12 months but less than four years and more than or equal to four years but excluding life.
[2] Population figures for 2009 are not available at the time of writing.
[3] Self-harm figures for 2009 remain subject to verification and are not yet available. 2010 figures are not available for similar reasons. Two deaths are currently awaiting further information before classifying.

Any death in prison custody is a tragic event. The Government, Ministry of Justice and the National Offender Management Service, (NOMS) are committed to learning from such events and reducing the number of self-inflicted deaths in prison custody.

NOMS has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses a wide spectrum of prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm is cared for using the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork procedures.

Prisons: Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to record centrally the number of closed visits made on the prison estate. [322861]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service records centrally the number of closed visits imposed within the prison estate. In 2008-09 closed visiting conditions were imposed on 1,817 occasions.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Public Sector: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 664W, on public sector: disclosure of information, in respect of which of the 57 requests to the Unlocking Service which have been accepted the data requested have been released. [322874]

Mr. Wills: The Unlocking Service is not primarily concerned with the release of data. Its main purpose is to allow people to resolve issues concerned with re-use and publishing formats of data.

Where requests have been classified as resolved, every issue identified in the original request has been fully addressed. Two of the resolved requests related to the availability of data and in both instances those data have been provided. The remaining resolved requests relate to licensing conditions, copyright notices, publishing formats and charging.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 664W, on public sector: disclosure of information, for what reasons each request was given the status of *(a)* resolved, *(b)* unresolved and *(c)* part resolved. [322916]

Mr. Wills: Requests have been classified as resolved where every issue identified in the original request has been fully addressed and the current state corresponds to the requester's description of "My ideal solution" in the original request. If the request relates to the availability of data in a particular format, those data have been provided. If the request relates to a licensing issue, for example, that issue has been addressed.

Requests have been classified as unresolved where the current state does not correspond to the requester's description of "My ideal solution" and where there has been no substantive change since the request was posted, work will be continuing or the issue is intractable.

Requests have been classified as part resolved if there has been progression towards the requester's "ideal solution" but the current state does not fully meet this. Often in these cases there is continuing work or policy development. For example, a number of the requests relate to Ordnance Survey data, where commitments made in the Smarter Government White Paper address the requester's "ideal solution" but the issues are subject to a public consultation.

Sentencing

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people serving a custodial sentence had their conviction overturned on appeal in each year since 2005. [322695]

Claire Ward: The information requested is not available. Data collected within the central IT systems do not currently hold sufficient detail to allow identification of the type of sentence which is the subject of each appeal against a sentence heard in the Crown Court or Court of Appeal.

Annual statistics on all appeals dealt with in the Crown Court against sentences given in the magistrates' court are published by the Ministry of Justice in table 6.10 of the annual command paper "Judicial and Court Statistics". Annual statistics on all appeals in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) against sentences in the Crown Court are also published in Table 1.6 of this report. The most recent edition, presenting statistics for 2004 to 2008, was published in September 2009.

Copies of "Judicial and Court Statistics" are available in the Library of the House and from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.Justice.gov.uk/publications/judicialandcourtstatistics.htm

Trade Unions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 383-84W, on trade unions, how many of the days staff of his Department and its agencies spent on trade union activity were spent in respect of each individual trade union recognised by his Department and its agencies in the last 12 months. [322746]

Mr. Straw: The number of days that were available to be spent on trade union activity by each of the trade unions in the Ministry in the last 12 months, for which information is available, are as follows:

MoJ (excluding NOMS)

	Total FTE	*Total days*
DTUS	5	1,100
PCS GEC	26.4	5,808
FDA	1	220
Prospect	1	220
Total	33.4	7,348

The days quoted do not include PCS local representatives in MoJ (excluding NOMS). This figure is not known.

NOMS

	Total FTE	*Total days*
PCS	34	7,480
Prospect	2	440
POA	106	23,320
Prison Governors' Association	3	660
Prison Service Joint Industrial Council	18	3,960
Total	163	35,860

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether any authorisations of trade unions under section 30 of the Access to Justice Act 1999 have been withdrawn; [322741]

(2) how much has been recovered by trade unions under section 30 of the Access to Justice Act 1999 in each year since 1999; [322742]

(3) which trade unions have been authorised under section 30 of the Access to Justice Act 1999. [322747]

Mr. Straw: No authorisations of trade unions under section 30 of the Access to Justice Act 1999 have been withdrawn.

The Ministry of Justice does not collect information on the amounts recovered by trade unions or any other approved membership organisation under section 30.

All trade unions in England and Wales listed by the Certification Officer are covered to provide enhanced legal services to members and their families under the Access to Justice Act 1999. The current list is available at the website at:

www.certoffice.org

Young Offenders

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of young offenders supervised by youth offending teams were in full-time training and employment in *(a)* England and *(b)* each youth offending team area in each of the last four years; and how many and what proportion of young offenders were on secure remand in each youth offending team area in each of the last four years. [322241]

Maria Eagle: Data relating to this question have been placed in the House Library.

Education, training and employment: Table A shows the number and the proportion of young people on relevant youth justice disposals in each youth offending team in England who were in full-time education, training and employment (ETE) in each of the last four years. 'Relevant youth justice disposals' are defined as programmes resulting from a Final Warning with intervention, relevant community-based penalty or the community element of a custodial sentence. Relevant community-based penalties include Referral Orders, Reparation Orders, Action Plan Orders, Drug Treatment and Testing Orders, Supervision Orders (with or without conditions), Community Rehabilitation Orders (with or without conditions) and Community Punishment and Rehabilitation Orders.

Full-time ETE is defined here as 25 or more hours for young people of school age and 16 hours for those above school age.

Secure Remands: The number and proportion of young offenders on secure remand in each of the youth offending team areas in the last four years is not held centrally. However the YJB has figures for the average number of young people aged 10-17 on custodial remands in each YOT area in England in each of the last four years, which is shown in Table B. Custodial remand includes young people who are remanded in custody, convicted awaiting sentence or subject to court ordered secure remand. These data take a snapshot of young people who are on remand at a particular point in time which is then averaged out over the year.

The data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change overtime. Differences in counting rules may mean that figures from other databases are not directly comparable.

Young Offenders: Education

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase the level of training and education provided to young offenders under pre-release schemes. [322996]

Maria Eagle: Government recently passed legislation through the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 to bring improvements for education and training for young people detained in the youth secure estate. It makes local authorities responsible for learning for young people detained in youth custody and aligns arrangements in custody with the mainstream learning sector for the first time. This aims to increase consistency and continuity of learning for young people entering and leaving youth custody. The Act also includes a new duty on local authorities to make arrangements for education and training provision for the person on their release from custody, when appropriate for them to do so.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases managed by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission relate to absent parents in Banff and Buchan constituency. [321830]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases managed by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission relate to absent parents in Banff and Buchan constituency. [321830]

Latest figures show, as at December 2009, the number of cases in Scotland is 111,050; of these 1,820 are in the Parliamentary Constituency of Banff and Buchan. These figures include old scheme cases with a full or interim maintenance assessment as well as current scheme cases with a full maintenance calculation or default maintenance decision. Figures are adjusted to reflect those cases administered clerically.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Cold Weather Payments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 68W, on cold weather payments: highlands of Scotland, in respect of how many weather stations cold weather payments have been triggered in 2010; what payments have been made in respect of each weather station in 2010; and what estimate has been made of the number of potential qualifiers in respect of each weather station in 2010. [323081]

Helen Goodman: The information requested is given in the table.

Cold weather payments in 2010 for weather stations linked to the Highlands

Weather station	*Triggers*	*Estimated number of potential qualifiers*	*Estimated number of payments authorised*
Aultbea	0	600	0
Aviemore	5	800	4,000
Cassley	5	400	2,000
Kinloss	3	15,200	45,600
Loch Glascarnoch	6	800	4,800
Lusa	2	700	1,400
Machrihanish	1	3,100	3,100
Tiree	0	100	0
Tulloch Bridge	7	2,100	14,700
Wick Airport	2	2,600	5,200

Notes:
1. The Highlands has been interpreted as the unitary authority of that name.
2. Some of the weather stations listed are also linked to areas that are not part of the Highlands.
3. Figures are based on triggers notified in the calendar year 2010 up to and including 17 March.
4. The estimates of potential qualifiers and payments authorised relate to the entire area the weather station is linked to, not just to those in the Highlands.
5. The estimated numbers of potential qualifiers have been rounded to the nearest 100.
6. The estimated number of payments authorised for a weather station has been calculated as the number of triggers multiplied by the estimated number of potential qualifiers for that weather station.

Source:
DWP records of triggers to weather stations up to and including 17 March 2010 and estimated numbers of potential qualifiers by weather station.

Cold Weather Payments: Angus

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals in weather station areas covering Angus have received cold weather payments since 1 November 2009. [323342]

Helen Goodman: The available information is given in the table.

Weather stations covering Angus parliamentary constituency

Weather station	*Estimated number of benefit units which have received cold weather payments since 1 November 2009*
Braemar	1,600
Dyce	24,900
Leuchars	41,100
Strathallan	10,000

Notes:
1. Cold weather payments are made to benefit units rather than to households or individuals. A benefit unit can be a single person or a couple and can include children.
2. Each of the weather stations listed also covers an area that is not part of Angus parliamentary constituency.
3. The estimated number of benefit units which have received cold weather payments relates to the entire area that the weather station covers, not just to that in Angus parliamentary constituency.
4. Estimated numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:
DWP records of triggers to weather stations up to and including 18 March 2010 and estimated numbers of potential qualifiers by weather station.

The Government provide information about cold weather payments on the Directgov website at:

www.direct.gov.uk

This includes the eligibility rules, details of how payments are made and a postcode search which allows customers to find out whether the weather station that is linked to a specific postcode has triggered.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet her Department has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321991]

Jim Knight: The DWP internal website for staff is called DWP Intranet. No commissions for a redesign of the DWP Intranet have been made since 2005 and therefore no costs have been incurred.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the departmental expenditure limit for her Department in 2009-10 changed from £9.728 million in her Department's three-year business plan to £9.2 billion in the pre-Budget report. [317618]

Jonathan Shaw: The 2009-10 figure of £9.728 billion presented in the Department's three-year business plan represented the total funding available to the Department. This included additional funding agreed at pre-Budget report 2008 and Budget 2009, to support the Department in its response to the recession.

The revised figure of £9.2 billion presented in the pre-Budget report 2009 represented a departmental group which includes the Government Equalities Office.

The Department for Work and Pensions proportion of this funding was £9.090 billion. This was reflected in the winter supplementary estimate laid in Parliament on 24 November 2009.

The Department's final funding position for 2009-10 is set out in the spring supplementary estimate which was laid in Parliament on 23 February 2010.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade in (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies spent on first-class travel in the last 12 months. [320392]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has over 100,000 staff operating from over 1,000 office locations across the UK. The Department's travel policy encourages staff to travel using the most cost-effective tickets available at the time of booking and staff must consider travelling standard class where possible.

The spend for first-class travel by DWP for the last 12 months (February 2009 January 2010) is as follows:

	DWP first-class travel spend (£000)
Ministers	26
DWP agencies:	
Jobcentre Plus	3,134
Pension, Disability and Carers Service	1,822
The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	995
DWP Corporate Functions	7,452
Total DWP (excluding Ministers)	13,403

There was no first-class air travel undertaken in the period in question and therefore all of the above figures relate to rail travel.

The split by grade is not available for the required period.

Travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. The Civil Service Management Code sets outs regulations and instructions to Departments and agencies regarding the terms and conditions of service of civil servants and the delegations which have been made by the Minister for the Civil Service under the Civil Service (Management of Functions) Act 1992 together with the conditions attached to those delegations.

The code can be accessed at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/csmc/index.aspx

Paragraph 8.2 of the code deals with travel and under this section Departments and agencies must ensure that staff use the most efficient and economic means of travel in the circumstances, taking into account any management benefit or the needs of staff with disabilities.

Disability Living Allowance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the number of people aged between 60 and 64 years old claiming the higher rate care component of disability living allowance on the grounds of terminal illness. [322291]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* The information requested is provided in the table.

Disability living allowance special rules cases in payment receiving the higher rate care component as at August 2009

	£
Aged 60 to 64	10,500

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. All recipients under special rules are entitled to the higher rate care component. Information on the mobility component awarded to special rules claimants is included, however this part of the award may not be associated with special rules.
3. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:
Work and Pensions Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample.

Caution

The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of disability living allowance claimants. The Department recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5 per cent. sample data, or disabling condition is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100 per cent. total for the benefit. The figures have been rated to agree with Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study totals.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average waiting time was for a work capability assessment to be conducted for claimants for employment and support allowance in the latest period for which information is available. [319976]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 March 2010]:* The average time from the date an employment and support allowance claim starts to the date that Atos advice is given is shown in the following table. Information is provided from October 2008 (when employment and support allowance was introduced) to June 2009 (the latest data that can be used to calculate a reliable average).

	Average calendar days from claim start to Atos assessment
October 2008	148
November 2008	145
December 2008	145
January 2009	135
February 2009	129
March 2009	121
April 2009	112
May 2009	104
June 2009	100

Note:
The actual time that Jobcentre Plus and Atos take to complete a case may be different as we cannot exclude any backdating of a claim or include the time from Atos advice to the Jobcentre Plus decision on entitlement.

Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job point kiosks there are; how much her Department spent on job point kiosks since their introduction; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of job point kiosks; and what plans she has for the future of such kiosks. [323482]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many job point kiosks there are; how much her Department spent on job point kiosks since their introduction; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of job point kiosks; and what plans she has for the future of such kiosks. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The number of job points currently being managed under the terms of a commercial agreement between Jobcentre Plus and its current IT provider, Hewlett Packard, is 7,283.

Running costs for the job points have amounted to £16.7 million since August 2007. Detailed costs prior to August 2007 are not available due to the way the Department was invoiced for services at that time.

Our job points continue to form a key part of the Jobcentre Plus self service strategy and have enabled its customers to conduct approximately 89.5 million job searches a year through this key channel. Later this year, Jobcentre Plus will start to replace 5,000 of its current job points with new kiosks. These are specifically designed to improve accessibility, reliability and cost effectiveness and give a much greater opportunity to exploit new technologies to enhance customer service.

Along with this replacement project, Jobcentre Plus is also installing an enhanced central kiosk management system that will provide much greater opportunity to monitor individual kiosk use and therefore continually assess effectiveness and future development.

I hope this information is helpful.

Future Jobs Fund

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the planned duration of the Future Jobs Fund scheme is; and if she will make a statement. [318534]

Jim Knight: Details of the Future Jobs Fund were announced in Budget 2009 on page 102, box 5.4. The third bullet point states:

'funding for local authorities and partners to take forward the creation of 100,000 new jobs in socially useful activity. 10,000 of these will be green jobs;'

and the final paragraph goes on to say:

'To support communities most affected by rising unemployment, the Government will allocate additional funding for local authorities to provide a further 50,000 jobs in areas of high unemployment across the country.'

A copy of this Budget has been placed in the library and can also be accessed at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud09_completereport_2520.pdf

We will continue to review the support that is available for jobseekers, and decisions on the Department's future expenditure limits and spending allocations will be taken at the Spending Review.

Housing Benefit

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason tenants aged over 25 years may not as of right receive housing benefit for shared accommodation for amounts less than the sole tenancy amounts they would be entitled to if that is their choice; and if she will make a statement. [322386]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* Housing benefit is an income-related benefit administered by local authorities to assist people on low incomes who need help to pay their rent. Tenants in the private rented sector have their benefit entitlement restricted to an amount considered to be reasonable for the area and their accommodation needs. As from 7 April 2008 the local authority uses the appropriate local housing allowance rate, based on the area where the person lives and the size of their household, to determine the maximum amount to be included in the housing benefit calculation.

In the case of single people aged 25 years and over and couples with no dependent children, the local housing allowance rate for a one-bedroom properly would normally be used to calculate their benefit entitlement. However, if they choose to live in a property where they do not have either exclusive use of two or more rooms, or exclusive use of one room, a bathroom and toilet and a kitchen or facilities for cooking, the shared room rate would apply.

Income Support

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons her Department's decision of 8 October 2009 to grant income support in respect of the case with reference NINO YX220262A with effect from 12 August 2008 has not been implemented; and when she expects that decision to be implemented. [322314]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* The administration of income support is a matter for Jobcentre Plus. I have asked the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh, to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking for what reasons her Department's decision of 8 October 2009 to grant Income Support in respect of the case with reference NINO YX 22 02 62A with effect from 12 August 2008 has not been implemented; and when she expects that decision to be implemented. This is something that falls within my responsibilities as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

As this is a personal matter relating to the individual involved, I will write to you separately.

Jobcentre Plus: Recruitment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of the 16,000 additional Jobcentre Plus positions announced in the pre-Budget report 2008 and Budget 2009 have been filled; and whether her Department is actively recruiting to fill the remainder of the positions; [322168]

(2) what the average length of time was between an application being received for one of the 16,000 additional Jobcentre Plus positions announced in the pre-Budget report 2008 and Budget 2009 and *(a)* the (i) offer and (ii) start date of a job and *(b)* the issue of a letter to an unsuccessful applicant; [322170]

(3) how many and what proportion of applicants for the 16,000 additional Jobcentre Plus positions announced in the pre-Budget report 2008 and Budget 2009 have successfully completed the application process and are awaiting appointment; [322171]

(4) how many of the additional *(a)* 6,000 staff announced in pre-Budget report 2008 and *(b)* 10,000 staff announced in Budget Report 2009 have been recruited. [322177]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions concerning the recruitment to 16,000 additional Jobcentre Plus positions announced in the Pre-Budget Report 2008 and Budget 2009. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus began recruiting after the Pre-Budget Report 2008 announcement to deal with increased workloads as a result of the economic downturn. The majority of recruitment took place between April 2009 and September 2009, but Jobcentre Plus has continued making job offers in lower numbers up to December 2009. All of the additional headcount announced in the Pre-Budget Report 2008 and the Budget Report 2009 has now been recruited.

Recruitment was managed through more than 500 local recruitment exercises so as to most effectively recruit this volume of additional resource and to target recruitment activity in alignment with local workload pressures. To provide the level of detail in relation to the average time between application and offer, start date, or rejection notice that you have asked for would not be possible, as to obtain this would be at disproportionate cost.

There are Service Level Agreements within the Department with set targets for the time taken to recruit. The recruitment process from the advertisement to the point that an applicant has successfully passed sift and interview, will be completed in 45 working days. Employment checks should then be completed in 20 working days with a further 7 days where final checks are made if someone has failed initial employment checks. A formal job offer will only be made after the employment checks have been completed. The subsequent start date will depend on each individual applicant's circumstances, such as the requirement to give notice.

Those applicants not successful at any stage of the process will be informed immediately.

All of the additional positions announced have now been filled. Therefore, there is no one awaiting appointment to those posts. However, with over 100,000 applicants to these posts it meant that there were significant numbers of people achieving the required level at interview stage. Where numbers of suitable candidates exceeded demand, these people were put on waiting lists in case future posts became available.

We continue to monitor workloads and have been managing staffing at current levels since January 2010 with further recruitment on hold, apart from a few exceptions where workloads or staff turnover need addressing. We have advised the 8000 or so people that successfully completed the application process and who remain on waiting lists that it is unlikely that there will be many further offers of employment made.

I hope this information is helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Redundancy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus staff *(a)* have been made redundant and *(b)* have failed to have a fixed-term contract renewed in each month since January 2008. [322172]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus staff *(a)* have been made redundant and *(b)* have failed to have a fixed term contract renewed in each month since January 2008. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

No Jobcentre Plus staff have been made redundant since January 2008.

The table below gives details of the number of people on Fixed Term Appointments (FTAs) that left when their contracts came to an end for each month since January 2008 to September 2009. This is the latest date for which figures have been published.

Please note that this will include people who have already had their contract end date extended, but then leave on their new end date without further extension. The figures exclude people that have left before the end of their contract for various reasons, such as dismissal for poor performance and resignation. Numbers quoted are in full time equivalents.

Number of people on fixed term appointments (FTAs) who left when their contracts came to an end (January 2008 to September 2009)

	2008	2009
January	1	2
February	0	4
March	11	7
April	4	5
May	0	5
June	9	5
July	6	11
August	13	6
September	14	15
October	5	—
November	3	—
December	4	—

Source:
Dataview

I hope this information is helpful.

National Employment Savings Trust

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what consideration was given to the scope for the re-use of established systems and IT infrastructure in the procurement process for scheme administration services for the National Employment Savings Trust; [321842]

(2) by what mechanism the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority intends to achieve its strategic aim of re-using existing business services and IT infrastructure for the delivery of services for the National Employment Savings Trust. [321844]

Angela Eagle: A major area of focus of the scheme administration services procurement process was consideration of the benefits of, and possibilities for, the re-use of established systems and IT infrastructure.

At the pre-qualification stage, PADA challenged prospective suppliers on their existing pension administration services, client base and technology assets. Responses on these topics formed part of the consideration which led to four suppliers being short-listed for competitive dialogue.

Throughout the competitive dialogue, PADA worked with the qualified bidders to understand how they would deliver the service using pre-existing, off-the-shelf software and infrastructures.

The winning bidder, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd., demonstrated its ability and commitment to using established systems by building a version of the production system, based on its existing IT infrastructure, which demonstrated the strength of its capability to deliver the service requirements.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking in the procurement process for scheme administration services for the National Employment Savings Trust to ensure that the preferred solution minimises the administrative burden on businesses and simplifies the contribution mechanism for employees. [321843]

Angela Eagle: NEST will be one of the schemes employers can use to fulfil their new duties under the work place pension reforms, legislated for in the Pensions Act 2008.

PADA conducted the procurement of the scheme administration services with regard to the principles set out in the Act, one of which is to minimise the burdens placed on employers. For example, producing payment schedules for employers, clearly setting out the amounts to be paid and by when. Also, ensuring that employers and workers wishing to make additional contributions can do so using a range of payment methods.

This principle is reflected in the business requirements for NEST, which were developed with regard to market research with target employers and members. The winning bidder, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd., has confirmed it will fully meet these requirements.

New Deal Schemes

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Southport of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on New Deal schemes: young people, if she will provide figures for the number of repeat participants by the number of times each repeated for each New Deal programme in each year since its inception. [318391]

Jim Knight: Reliable statistics on repeat participants of the voluntary New Deal programmes would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Pension Credit: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Leeds North West constituency receive *(a)* a basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit; and how much on average such people receive in pension credit each week. [322705]

Angela Eagle: As at March 2009, there were 15,100 recipients of the basic state pension in Leeds North West constituency.

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample

The information requested on the number of recipients of pension credit in Leeds North West constituency and the average weekly award of pension credit received is in the following table:

Number

	Individual beneficiaries	*Households recipients*	*Average weekly award of pension credit (£)*
As at August 2009	3,680	3,100	50.55

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
3. Pension credit is claimed on a household basis. The average weekly award of pension credit is in relation to the household.
4. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Pensioners

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of active members of defined *(a)* benefit and *(b)* contribution pension schemes in each year since 1997. [323483]

Angela Eagle: The requested information is not available. The following table sets out the number of active members of defined benefit and defined contribution occupational pension schemes for available years from 1995 to 2008.

In addition, individuals may contribute to personal or stakeholder pensions, which are defined contribution pension arrangements between an individual and the pension provider. Some individuals have more than one form of pension provision which means that there will be some double counting between personal and stakeholder pension holdings and the occupational pension memberships presented above. Information on personal and stakeholder pension arrangements are published by the HMRC:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/menu.htm

Million

	Defined benefit schemes	*Defined contribution schemes*	*Total*
1995	9.2	1.1	10.3
2000	9.0	1.2	10.1
2004	8.6	1.2	9.8
2005	—	1.0	—
2006	8.2	1.0	9.2

	Defined benefit schemes	Defined contribution schemes	Million Total
2007	7.9	0.9	8.8
2008	8.0	1.0	9.0

Notes:
1. The 2005 survey did not cover the public sector and a total defined benefit figure is therefore not available.
2. Changes to the methodology for 2006 onwards mean that comparisons with 2005 and earlier years should be treated with caution.
Source:
Occupational Pension Schemes Survey.

Poverty: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the standard of living of *(a)* families in Birmingham, *(b)* the poorest 20 per cent. of families in Birmingham, *(c)* pensioners in Birmingham and *(d)* the poorest 20 per cent. of pensioners in Birmingham (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures is available. [321576]

Helen Goodman: The measurement of living standards is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures. It is generally accepted that income is central to any standard of living measurement.

Income statistics published in the Households Below Average Income series only allow analysis at Government office region level. Therefore, information for Birmingham is not available, although figures relating to the west midlands Government office region are. Three-year averages are used to report regional statistics as single-year estimates are subject to volatility. Weekly income levels are rounded to the nearest pound.

Table 1: Median weekly equivalised incomes for all families and the median equivalised incomes of the 20 per cent. of families with lowest incomes, west midlands, 1997/98-1999/2000 to 2005/06-2007/08, in 2007/08 prices—before and after housing costs

	Median income (£ per week)			
	Before housing costs		After housing costs	
Period	All families	20 per cent. of families with lowest incomes	All families	20 per cent. of families with lowest incomes
1997-98 to 1999-2000	336	169	275	122
2005-06 to 2007-08	369	181	315	133

Table 2: Median weekly equivalised incomes for all pensioners and the median equivalised incomes of the 20 per cent. of pensioners with lowest incomes, west midlands, 1997/98-1999/2000 to 2005/06-2007/08, in 2007/08 prices—before and after housing costs

	Median income (£ per week)			
	Before housing costs		After housing costs	
Period	All pensioners	20 per cent. of pensioners with lowest incomes	All pensioners	20 per cent. of pensioners with lowest incomes
1997-98 to 1999-2000	262	158	224	131
2005-06 to 2007-08	324	187	301	169

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data. The Households Below Average Income series is available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. The figures are based on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development equivalisation factors.
6. Figures have been presented on both a Before Housing Cost and After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Cost they are.
7. Incomes are presented in 2007-08 prices and have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling.
8. Families are defined as a single adult or couple living as married and any dependent children, including same sex couples (civil partnerships and cohabitees) from January 2006. A household is made up of one or more families. Families can include individuals over state pension age.
9. The median income is the income of the middle person in the population, such that half the population have incomes below the median and half the population have incomes above the median. The median is used instead of the mean income because the mean is affected by outlying cases with very high income values. This is consistent with relevant public service agreement indicators and the Households Below Average Income publication.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of *(a)* the whole population, *(b)* children and *(c)* pensioners in Birmingham was living in poverty in each year since 1997. [321577]

Helen Goodman: Between 1998-99 and 2007-08 some 500,000 children were lifted out of relative poverty. Measures announced in and since Budget 2007 are expected to lift around a further 550,000 children out of poverty. Absolute poverty has been halved.

Addressing pensioner poverty has been a priority for this Government. We have targeted help on the poorest pensioners, those who need it most, while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

With the help of targeted support and additional funding there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty (after housing costs) in 2007-08 than in 1998-99.

Estimates of poverty, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in poverty at Government office region level. Therefore, information for Birmingham is not available, though figures relating to the west midlands Government office region are available.

Poverty for all individuals is presented both before and after housing costs. Child poverty is presented before housing costs and pensioner poverty is presented after housing costs, in line with the relevant Public Service Agreements. The most commonly used figures relate to those with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income for the three groups.

Three-year averages are used to report regional statistics as single-year estimates are subject to volatility. Figures are quoted rounded to the nearest percentage point. The following tables show the percentage of all individuals (Table 1), children (Table 2) and pensioners (Table 3) in the west midlands Government office region who have incomes below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income.

Table 1: Proportion of individuals in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median for the west midlands, before and after housing costs (percentage)

	Proportion of individuals (percentage)	
Period	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
1997-98 to 1999-2000	20	23
1998-99 to 2000-01	20	24
1999-00 to 2001-02	20	24
2000-01 to 2002-03	21	25
2001-02 to 2003-04	20	24
2002-03 to 2004-05	20	23
2003-04 to 2005-06	20	23
2004-05 to 2006-07	20	23
2005-06 to 2007-08	21	24

Table 2: Proportion of children in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median for the west midlands, before housing costs (percentage)

	Proportion of children (percentage)
Period	*Before housing costs*
1997-98 to 1999-2000	28
1998-99 to 2000-01	27
1999-2000 to 2001-02	28
2000-01 to 2002-03	26
2001-02 to 2003-04	26
2002-03 to 2004-05	25
2003-04 to 2005-06	26
2004-05 to 2006-07	26
2005-06 to 2007-08	27

Table 3: Proportion of pensioners in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median for the west midlands, after housing costs (percentage)

	Proportion of pensioners (percentage)
Period	*After housing costs*
1997-98 to 1999-2000	28
1998-99 to 2000-01	28
1999-2000 to 2001-02	27
2000-01 to 2002-03	28
2001-02 to 2003-04	26
2002-03 to 2004-05	23
2003-04 to 2005-06	20
2004-05 to 2006-07	18
2005-06 to 2007-08	18

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data. The Households Below Average Income series is available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. The figures are based on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development equivalisation factors.
6. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are.
7. Proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

A local child poverty indicator—including constituency level information—has been developed that captures the number and proportion of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits, or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent. of median income. Details can be found via the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm

The measure enables local partners to make an assessment of the level and geographical distribution of income deprivation in their area and focuses local partners on taking action to help raise family incomes.

Poverty: Children

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of children in Salford who have been lifted out of poverty since 1997. [322408]

Helen Goodman: The Government's declared aim is to eradicate child poverty by 2020. Our determination to do so is as firm as ever and this is demonstrated by introducing the Child Poverty Bill. The Child Poverty Bill will bring new impetus to eradicating child poverty by 2020. It will provide a definition of success and sets a framework to guarantee that Government and their partners at national and local levels make a clear and vital contribution towards ending child poverty.

Between 1998-09 and 2007-08 some 500,000 children were lifted out of relative poverty. Measures announced in and since Budget 2007 are expected to lift around a further 550,000 children out of poverty. Absolute poverty has been halved.

Each year different households are surveyed to produce low income statistics and estimates of poverty that are published in the Households Below Average Income series. Information is therefore available about the net change in the number of children with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income.

However, estimates of poverty, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in poverty at Government office region level. Therefore, information for Salford is not available, though figures relating to north-west Government office region are. These are given in the table.

Three-year averages are used to report regional statistics as single-year estimates are subject to volatility. Figures are quoted rounded to the nearest 100,000 children. Child poverty is presented before housing costs in line with the child poverty public service agreements.

Change between 1997-98-1999-2000 and 2005-06-2007-08 in the number of children in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median for the north-west, before housing costs (million)

	Number of children (million)
Change	*Before housing costs*
1997-98-1999-2000 to 2005-06-2007-08	0.1

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data. The Households Below Average Income series is available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. The figures are based on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

A local child poverty indicator—including constituency level information—has been developed that captures the number and proportion of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits, or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent. of median income. Details can be found via the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm

The measure enables local partners to make an assessment of the level and geographical distribution of income deprivation in their area and focuses local partners on taking action to help raise family incomes.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of children in postcode areas L20, L21 and L22 were living in poverty in each year since 2000. [322636]

Helen Goodman: Estimates of poverty, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in poverty at Government office region level. Therefore, information for the postcode areas L20, L21 and L22 are not available.

Social Security Benefits

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether guidance has been issued to local authorities on the application of the provisions of the Contracting Out (Functions of Local Authorities: Income-Related Benefits) Order 2002 to *(a)* the contracting out of (i) the administration of income-related benefits relating to local housing allowance applications and (ii) functions relating to other income-related benefits and *(b)* the agreement of a contractual arrangement relating to the administration of income-related benefits without making financial payments for the service; [322504]

(2) what her Department's policy is on the contracting out by local authorities of arrangements for income-related benefits. [322505]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* The policy on the contracting out by local authorities of arrangements for income-related benefits is set out in the Contracting Out (Functions of Local Authorities: Income-Related Benefits) Order 2002 [SI 2002 No. 1888]. This order, which came into force on 25 July 2002, allows local authorities to authorise people other than those directly employed by them, to carry out a wider range of functions connected with the administration of housing benefit (including local housing allowance), council tax benefit and discretionary housing payments. The order does not change local authorities' ultimate responsibility and they remain fully accountable and responsible for the administration of these benefits.

Guidance circular HB/CTB A22/2002 was issued to local authorities in September 2002, giving information about the order. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of customer claims for *(a)* attendance allowance, *(b)* disability living allowance, *(c)* incapacity benefit and *(d)* employment and support allowance have been denied in the last five years; how many and what percentage of these denied claims have been appealed against; and in how many cases the appeal has been successful. [315720]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 4 March 2010]:* Information about the number and percentage of denied claims that have been appealed against and the subsequent number of successful appeals is not available.

Information about the work capability assessment for employment and support allowance claims in Great Britain is available in the Department for Work and Pension's Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment Statistic Release (January 2010). A copy of this report is available in the Library and can be found on our website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_arc.asp

This report contains details of the number of initial assessments carried out since the introduction of employment and support allowance, a breakdown of the result of the assessment, including the fit for work decision and separate information relating to work capability assessment appeals.

The available information on attendance allowance, disability living allowance, and incapacity benefit is in the tables.

Number and percentage of attendance allowance and disability living allowance new claims that are denied

	Total number of attendance allowance decisions made	*Number of attendance allowance claims denied*	*Percentage of attendance allowance claims denied*	*Total number of disability living allowance decisions made*	*Number of disability living allowance claims denied*	*Percentage of disability living allowance claims denied*
2005-06	408,390	85,660	21	429,290	228,050	53
2006-07	387,960	78,480	20	422,550	226,170	54
2007-08	373,890	67,860	18	456,090	248,820	55
2008-09	388,220	64,060	17	466,680	252,540	54

Number and percentage of attendance allowance and disability living allowance new claims that are denied

	Total number of attendance allowance decisions made	Number of attendance allowance claims denied	Percentage of attendance allowance claims denied	Total number of disability living allowance decisions made	Number of disability living allowance claims denied	Percentage of disability living allowance claims denied
2009-10[1]	313,480	54,990	18	402,620	223,560	56

[1] YTD January.

Notes:

1. "Denied" claims has been interpreted to mean claims that have been disallowed.
2. The number of decisions made is not equal to the number of new claims made. This is because there is always a percentage of customers who make a new claim and withdraw their request before a decision can be made. The percentage of disability living allowance and attendance allowance claims denied is defined as the number of claims denied divided by the number of decisions made.

Source:

Management Information Reports: Report Disability Allowance (RDA) and Report Attendance Allowance (RAA) 60209 and 60205.

Number and percentage of incapacity benefit new claims that are denied

	Total claims processed	Total claims refused	Percentage refused of those processed
2006-07	679,160	319,580	47
2007-08	673,770	328,130	49
2008-09	485,220	243,620	50
2009-10[1]	*21,449	14,398	67

[1] To January 2010.

Notes:

1. Information is only available from 2006-07 as the MISP system holds data only from that date.
2. "Denied" claims has been interpreted as those claims refused at the new claims stage because they did not meet the criteria for incapacity benefit, i.e. they were not sick/incapacitated. This means they either did not have a medical certificate giving a reason for the incapacity from their GP therefore claimed the incorrect benefit or the sick note provided did not state an illness. These figures also include claims from those customers previously disallowed following a personal capability assessment who reclaim incapacity benefit within six months with the same condition.
3. The reduced numbers in 2009-10* are due to the introduction of employment and support allowance. Those refused as a percentage is higher as following the introduction of employment and support allowance, customers claiming incapacity benefit had to have a linking claim in order to qualify.
4. MISP is the departmental performance management, data capture and reporting tool. The statistics presented here have not been subject to the rigorous quality assurance processes that are used for official statistics and as a result they should be used with a degree of caution.

Source:

Management Information System Programme (MISP).

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged over 65 years with each main disability condition received *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance under special rules in the latest period for which figures are available. [322166]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Disability living allowance special rules cases in payment to over 65s by main disabling condition at August 2009

Disabling condition	Cases in payments
Arthritis	500
Muscle/Joint/Bone Disease	—
Blindness/Visual Disease	—
Stroke Related	—
Malignant Disease	5,100
Chest Disease	100
Back Ailments	200
Heart Disease	300

Disability living allowance special rules cases in payment to over 65s by main disabling condition at August 2009

Disabling condition	Cases in payments
Parkinson's Disease	—
Diabetes Mellitus	—
AIDS	—
Multiple Sclerosis	—
Other	1,500

Attendance allowance special rules cases in payment by main disabling condition at August 2009

Disabling condition	Cases in payments
Arthritis	100
Stroke Related	100
Mental Health Causes	—
Malignant Disease	200
Back Ailments	—
Heart Disease	—
Frailty	—
Other[1]	36,700

[1] This figure includes cases that have been identified as terminally ill cases but the main disabling condition has not been recorded.

Notes:

1. Figures have been rated to agree with Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Caution:

The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of disability living allowance claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5 per cent. sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100 per cent. total for the benefit.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions 5 per cent. sample

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 105W, on social security benefits: fraud, how many ongoing investigations there are into cases of benefit fraud in each of the countries listed; how many of her Department's investigating officers are based abroad, and in which countries; with which countries her Department has arrangements in relation to benefit fraud; what the total budget is for her Department's Targeting Fraud campaign; and how much has been spent on the campaign to date. [320158]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 3 March 2010]*: Information regarding the number of ongoing benefit fraud investigations in other countries has been collected since 1 April 2009. The number of ongoing benefit fraud investigations since then in each of the countries requested is as follows:

	Number
Spain	167
USA	54
Cyprus	32
Australia	20
France	40
Greece	11
South Africa	8
Canada	8
Eire	14
Portugal	13
Austria	0
Bahrain	0
Bulgaria	4
Holland	8
India	42
Italy	13
New Zealand	3
Pakistan	138
Thailand	40
Trinidad and Tobago	2

No Department for Work and Pensions benefit fraud investigators are based abroad. However, there are 16 Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff based abroad funded by the Department for Work and Pensions whose duties include undertaking information gathering on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions to assist UK-based fraud investigators in their work.

The Department for Work and Pensions has Memoranda of Understanding with the Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, Belgium and Australia and information sharing arrangements with New Zealand and the USA to ensure the correct administration of social security and prevention of benefit fraud.

The budget for the 2009-10 Targeting Benefit Thieves campaign is £5 million. To the end of February the budget committed for 2009-10 is £4,803,420.52.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will investigate the situation whereby a non-resident parent in receipt of certain benefits including pensions paid on medical grounds can receive an income of almost £25,000 per annum and the resident parent receives the minimum weekly maintenance payment of £5 per week, irrespective of the number of children involved. [318499]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system.

I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested in respect of the current position and I have seen the response.

I should also add that as part of the development of regulations for the future child maintenance scheme, the policy affecting cases such as these is being reviewed.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if she will investigate the anomaly whereby a non-resident parent in receipt of certain benefits including pensions paid on medical grounds can receive an income of almost £25,000 per annum and the resident parent receives the minimum weekly maintenance payment of £5 per week, irrespective of the number of children involved. [318499]

Non-resident parents in receipt of prescribed benefits will only be assessed as being able to pay the £5 per week flat rate of maintenance. This is not affected by the amount of benefit paid.

It is possible for the parent with care to apply for a variation on the grounds that the non-resident parent receives other income which has not been taken into account. The Child Support (Variations) Regulations 2000 specifically provides for the initial £5 per week maintenance liability to be varied where the non-resident parent receives other income, which would have otherwise been taken in to account in the initial maintenance calculation process, were it not for the fact that the non-resident parent was receiving a prescribed benefit.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Social Security Benefits: Travelling People

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* council tax and *(b)* housing benefit may be awarded to Travellers occupying camps without planning permission. [323443]

Helen Goodman: Council tax benefit is available to anyone who is liable for council tax.

Where a Traveller's caravan occupies a non-established site or pitch for a period materially less than 12 months, with no sign of likely future use, this will generally be regarded as too transient to establish the pitch as a dwelling. For established sites or pitches, even if the occupier changes often, a banding will apply and a liability to council tax will exist.

It is established rating law, applicable to council tax that a transitory occupation of land does not amount to rateable occupation. Whether the necessary permanence of occupation has been established for liability to arise will depend on the facts in each case.

On the subject of housing benefit I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 75W.

State Retirement Pensions

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the effects would be on *(a)* public service and *(b)* other occupational pension schemes if the level of the basic and additional state pensions were both increased by 1.5 per cent. instead of 2.5 per cent. in April 2010; and how many pensioners would (i) gain and (ii) lose as a result. [319356]

Angela Eagle: Current social security legislation provides for public service pension to be adjusted by the same rate as the additional pension, and for such adjustments to take place only if there has been an increase in the prices over a given period.

The effect of increasing both the basic state pension and additional pension by 1.5 per cent., compared with increasing the basic state pension by 2.5 per cent., would be to reduce the average increase in state pension overall as a result of uprating in April 2010, from around £2 a week to around £1.50 a week.

More detailed data on pensioners' overall income split by detailed source are not available.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take-up rate of basic state pension was *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in Essex and *(c)* in Southend in the latest period for which figures are available; and what it was in each year since 1997. [320646]

Angela Eagle: The information requested can be found in the following tables where available. The figures relate to the proportion of the population in receipt of basic state pension, who are estimated to be over state pension age and alive at the end of March 2009.

Pensioners in Great Britain in receipt of basic state pension

	Number	Proportion over state pension age (percentage)
2009	11,100,000	94
2008	10,900,000	95
2007	10,800,000	96
2006	10,600,000	96
2005	10,500,000	96
2004	10,400,000	96
2003	10,300,000	96
2002	10,200,000	96

Pensioners in Southend in receipt of basic state pension

	Number	Proportion over state pension age (percentage)
2009	33,400	97
2007	33,000	97
2006	33,200	96
2005	33,200	97
2004	33,200	97
2003	33,200	96
2002	33,000	96

Pensioners in Essex in receipt of basic state pension

	Number	Proportion over state pension age (percentage)
2008	277,600	95
2007	270,000	96
2006	263,000	96
2005	260,600	96
2004	256,400	97
2003	251,900	96
2002	247,600	96

Notes:
1. The latest population and administrative data are from 2009. The latest population figures for Essex and Southend are from the ONS Mid-2008 Population Estimates.
2. The earliest available regional caseload data only go back to 2002. Figures for Essex relate to Essex local authority district and for Southend relate to Southend-on-Sea unitary authority.
3. GB estimates are rounded to the nearest 100,000 people, those for Essex and Southend to the nearest 100 people.
4. The remaining pensioners not in receipt of a basic state pension, but eligible, will be in the process of deferring their state pension. Following a period of state pension deferral a claimant can either: (i) take a lump sum that will have accrued at a rate of two percentage points above the Bank of England base rate or; (ii) receive extra state pension whereby an additional one per cent. is added to the value of the state pension for every five weeks of deferral.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) Glenrothes, (ii) Scotland and (iii) the UK qualify for the full basic state pension. [322404]

Angela Eagle: The available information is in the following table.

	Total	Male	Female
Glenrothes parliamentary constituency	11,200	6,000	5,100
Scotland	633,400	316,800	316,600
GB	6,952,000	3,661,200	3,290,700

Notes:
1. Figures are for claimants with a full basic state pension as at March 2009.
2. Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.
3. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample

Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to constituency, the effects on that constituency of the policies and actions of her Department and its predecessor since 2000. [321481]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP leads the Government's response to some of the biggest issues facing the country—welfare and pension reform—and is a key player in tackling child poverty[1]. As the biggest delivery department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. We want to give people more choice and control over their lives and are committed to providing greater choice and personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work. We believe that work works. Even in economically challenging times we know that work works for the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since January 1998, the number of people unemployed in Stroud has increased by 31 per cent. to 1,840, and the number unemployed for more than one year has decreased by 35 per cent. to 200. From August 2000 to August 2009 the number of lone parents claiming income support in Stroud has decreased by 25 per cent. to 660.

Our New Deals have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over-50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception, over 2.2 million people in Great Britain have found work with the support of the New Deal, and 2,670 have been helped in Stroud.

Support for children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion

of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the numbers of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level.

Support for older people

Since 1997 our strategy has been to target help on the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will be spending over £13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with the policies that were in place in 1997. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997 the poorest pensioners, who received income support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, £198.45 for couples. As of August 2009, 4,790 pensioners in Stroud are benefiting from pension credit.

In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty in UK compared to 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs).

Statistics on the proportion of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at constituency level. But the latest data for the south-west Government office region show that the proportion of pensioners in poverty (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs) fell from 24 per cent. to 18 per cent. since 2000[2].

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the winter fuel payment which this winter is worth £250 for households with someone aged between 60 to 79 and £400 for households with someone aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98 less than £60 million per year was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills—we now spend around £2.7 billion on winter fuel payments alone. In winter 2008-09 (the last winter for which information is available) 25,540 people aged 60 and over benefited from winter fuel payments in Stroud.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people can continue to have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the Financial Assistance Scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people are not left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

In total, 751 people in the south-west Government office region are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at constituency level)[3].

We have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three quarters of women reaching state pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic state pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in Stroud will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents who are entitled to state support, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. This will be trailblazed in eight local authority sites from late 2010. Older and less well off carers have gained extra help through the provisions within the National Carers Strategy.

[1] The Department for Work and Pensions was created in 2001 and so information relates to the Department and its predecessors.

[2] Based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 pensioners between 2000-01 to 2002-03 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[3] Regional information about assistance payments received by members from the Financial Assistance Scheme could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Vocational Training

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to ensure that low-incidence sensory-impaired students will continue to be able to access national specialist residential training providers following the introduction of the new contracting arrangements. [323006]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government do not prescribe the type of training that should be available to people with specific impairments. However, the new contracts will ensure that this programme will be flexible and tailored to each individual.

We know from evaluation undertaken in 2006 that residential courses tend to exclude some customers, including those who have caring responsibilities. The very limited locations in which provision is currently available exacerbate this. The new contracting arrangements seek to ensure that appropriate support will be available locally to a broader range of customers including women, ethnic minority groups and those who are unable to travel long distances.

However, we recognise that the residential provision is important for some customer groups and so the new contracts will specify that residential training should be available where that is appropriate for the customer.

Winter Fuel Payments: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in York with at least one person aged 75 years or over received the winter fuel allowance in 2009-10. [322998]

Angela Eagle: For winter 2008-09, the latest year for which information is available, 6,500 households in the City of York constituency with at least one person aged 75 years or over received a winter fuel payment.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. data.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to answer Question 316427, on payments to the Government Car and Despatch Agency, tabled on 3 February 2010. [320255]

Jonathan Shaw: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 17 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 869-70W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Dogs: Crime

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the incidence of the use of dogs in crime. [322945]

Meg Hillier: These data are not collected centrally. We are aware of the growing concerns about the use of dangerous dogs to harass and intimidate people. This has prompted the Government to introduce the new gang injunction power under the Policing and Crime Act 2009 and launch a public consultation on managing and controlling dangerous dogs.

Immigration Removal Centres

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were being held in immigration removal centres on the latest date for which figures are available. [322955]

Mr. Woolas: As at 31 December 2009, 2,595 people were held in UK Border Agency immigration detention, none of whom were children.

Published national statistics on the number of people detained solely under Immigration Act powers are published quarterly and are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office website.

Antisocial Behaviour

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of anti-social behaviour were reported in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* each constituency, *(c)* each police force area, *(d)* each local authority area and *(e)* each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each year since 1997. [319523]

Alan Johnson: The number of incidents of antisocial behaviour as defined in the National Incident Category List were requested as part of police forces annual data return in 2007-08 and 2008-09. Collection of National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR) data through ADR 342 came into force on 1 April 2007. Prior to that, data returns for NISR were not mandatory.

Data are not returned by *(b)* constituency or *(d)* local authority area.

A copy of the detailed tables showing the figures for England and Wales, each police force area and the smallest geographical area available (police force basic command unit) in 2007-08 and 2008-09 have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The data are normally for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. They are provisional and may be subject to change. The data represent calls for service as recorded by police forces under the relevant categories and may be subject to local variation in reporting and classifying.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of police forces in tackling antisocial behaviour. [322950]

Mr. Hanson: We expect all agencies to prioritise antisocial behaviour. ASB is to be tackled not tolerated—police and other agencies must protect victims and punish perpetrators. To that end we have asked all areas to draw up minimum standards of service for the public by the end of this month. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) tough independent inspections on police forces' performance are a welcome addition to our commitment to accountability and transparency in continuing to raise standards.

Arrest Warrants

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European arrest warrants issued in the UK have been executed in each other EU member state in each month since their introduction. [322370]

Meg Hillier: The figures for the number of persons extradited to the UK under European arrest warrants (EAWs) since their introduction are as follows:

	Persons extradited to the UK
2004	19
2005	63
2006	76
2007	99
2008	96

It is not possible from current systems to provide data broken down into the number of EAWs issued in the UK which have been executed in respect of each other member state or in each month. This would require a manual examination of all files and incur disproportionate cost.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European arrest warrants issued by each other EU member state have been executed in the UK. [322372]

Meg Hillier: SOCA and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (for Scotland) are the designated authorities for the receipt and transmission of European arrest warrants (EAWs) in the UK. The number of surrenders from the UK (excluding Scotland) to another member state since 2004 is as follows:

	Number
2004	24
2005	77
2006	151
2007	332
2008	515

It is not possible from current systems to provide data broken down into the number of EAWs issued by each other EU member state. This would require a manual examination of all files and incur disproportionate cost.

Arrest Warrants: Republic of Ireland

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European arrest warrants issued in the UK and served on a person in the Republic of Ireland resulted in that person being delivered to the UK authorities *(a)* within one month, *(b)* within two months, *(c)* within three months, *(d)* within six months and *(e)* over six months after the warrant being served in the last three years. [323007]

Meg Hillier: It is not possible from current systems to provide data broken down by the time taken to secure transfer to UK jurisdiction of an alleged criminal from another member state of the European Union. To do so would require a manual examination of all files and incur disproportionate cost.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European arrest warrants issued in the UK relating to sex abuse cases have been served on people in the Republic of Ireland in the last three years. [323008]

Meg Hillier: It is not possible from current systems to break down the number of European arrest warrants issued in the UK by offence type and by EU member state. To do so would require a manual examination of all files and incur disproportionate cost.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is his practice to indicate to the Irish Government the *(a)* importance and *(b)* urgency of implementation of (i) extradition requests and (ii) European arrest warrants issued by the UK in relation to residents of Ireland. [323327]

Meg Hillier: Irrespective of the member state concerned, all cases are prioritised appropriately depending on the risk that the individual poses to that country and/or the intelligence available. If, as a result of this process, the case is deemed urgent, then an appropriate message would be sent to the relevant authorities in that country requesting immediate action.

Asylum

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median time taken to process an application for asylum was in December 2009. [322331]

Mr. Woolas: The public service agreement (PSA) delivery agreement 3, indicator 2 refers to the reduction in the time to conclusion of asylum application. The measure is to ensure a target percentage of cases should be resolved within six months.

The method of reporting against the target is based on the performance of the specific monthly cohort of cases reaching six months. Hence all reporting is done against a six months timeframe. A cohort is specified as those new applications received between 1 and 31 of each month.

The conclusion measurement requires applications to be granted asylum or some form of leave to remain in the UK, allowed at appeal or removed within 182 days (six months) to be counted as concluded.

Performance against the targets has been published in National Statistics as follows:

61 per cent. of new applications received in June 2009 were concluded, i.e. to grant asylum or some other form of leave to remain or to remove from the UK, in six months by the end of December 2009.

Published information is not available in relation to conclusion of applications in timescales other than six months.

In 1997, the average time for an initial decision was 22 months. Records are not kept for the average time for conclusion for this time.

Asylum: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who have applied for asylum and are waiting for a decision on their application are resident in York. [322113]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Borders: Patrol Craft

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration patrol vessels *(a)* operate in UK waters and *(b)* have operated in UK waters in each of the last 10 years. [318704]

Alan Johnson: The UK Border Agency operates five offshore patrol ships in UK territorial waters and adjacent seas. These ships provide operational coverage 365 days a year.

These ships were transferred from HM Revenue and Customs on 5 August 2009. HM Revenue and Customs, and HM Customs and Excise before that, had operated a five ship fleet since 2002.

Prior to 2002, HM Customs and Excise operated seven smaller patrol ships and a range of smaller launches and rigid inflatable boats.

UK Border Agency vessels work regularly in support of operations by other law enforcement agencies. In addition, UKBA officers respond to instances of suspected border crime in UK waters.

Departmental Consultants

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible and *(c)* each other body sponsored by his Department in each year since 2005. [316834]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the Home Department's, including the Criminal Records Bureau, United Kingdom Border Agency and Identity and Passport Service agencies, total consultancy expenditure from 2005-06 is as follows:

Table 1: Total consultancy expenditure: Home Office Headquarters, UKBA, CRB and IPS

Financial year	Expenditure on consultancy services (£ million)
2005-06	139
2006-07	148
2007-08	96
2008-09	139

Information on non-departmental public bodies' consultancy expenditure from 2005-06 is as follows:

Table 2: NDPBs' consultancy expenditure

	Financial year			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Independent Police Complaints Commission (£000)	[1]	53	158	578
Independent Safeguarding Authority (£000)	n/a	n/a	n/a	405
National Policing Improvement Agency (£ million)	n/a	n/a	71	22
Security Industry Agency (£000)	480	394	137	387
Serious Organised Crime Agency (£ million)	n/a	1.6	1.6	1.8

[1] Unavailable.

Information on other bodies sponsored by the Department is not held and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Consultancy and advisory services cover the provision to the Home Office of objective advice and assistance relating to strategy, structure, management or operations of an organisation in pursuit of its purposes and objectives. The use of external consultants provides the Department with specialist knowledge, skill, capacity and technical expertise that would not otherwise be available.

The Department's overall expenditure on consultancy services represents a small part of the Home Office's overall spend, and at the end of the first half of the current financial year, it stood at some 5.8 per cent. of total overall expenditure, down from 8 per cent. in the previous year.

The Department has in place a series of workstreams designed to bear down on departmental reliance and expenditure on consultancy and other external resources, including being the first Government Department to have introduced (in 2009) prescribed daily fee rates for contractors.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information technology projects initiated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320424]

Mr. Woolas: No information technology project with a cost threshold of £5 million or more has been cancelled within the Home Office core or its Executive agencies prior to its completion within the last 12 months and no costs have therefore been incurred. Below this cost threshold information is not readily available and could be obtained therefore only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1374W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign. [321927]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office website

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

underwent a major redesign in 2005 costing £110,000. It subsequently underwent a minor redesign in 2008 to incorporate new corporate branding costing £50,000.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department has commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321986]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office intranet has undergone one major redesign since 2005. This took place in 2009 and cost £90,750.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322078]

Mr. Woolas: There is no centralised reporting mechanism for recording of reported thefts in the Home Department. To gather the information required would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department and agencies have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaigns to date. [320450]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office and its agencies have not spent any money on advertising, marketing, public relations or publicity in relation to *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaigns.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321138]

Mr. Woolas: The Department employs one higher executive officer, one executive officer and one administrative officer to assist special advisers.

Detention Centres

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many full-time equivalent nurses provided health services at *(a)* Dungavel House, *(b)* Tinsley House and *(c)* Yarl's Wood in each of the last six years; [321102]

(2) how many full-time equivalent general practitioners provided health services at *(a)* Dungavel House, *(b)* Tinsley House and *(c)* Yarl's Wood in each of the last six years. [321104]

Mr. Woolas: The three centres provide 24-hour on-site medical care.

The information available relates to period for which the current contractor has managed the centre.

At Dungavel House, from September 2006 to May 2009, 7.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) nurses provided health services. This increased to 8.25 FTE from May 2009. 0.75 FTE of a general practitioner attends the centre daily with additional support through an on call service.

At Tinsley House, for the past six years, 5.3 FTE nurses have provided health services. 0.5 FTE of a general practitioner attends the centre daily in the current year. In each of the previous five years, the FTE has been 0.7.

At Yarl's Wood, from April 2007, 13.2 FTE nurses have provided health services. 1.1 FTE of a general practitioner attends the centre daily.

This information is taken from local data and has not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. The data are provisional and subject to change.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average it took for detainees to be transferred from Dungavel House to detention facilities in England in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [322668]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* The information requested is not centrally recorded and can be provided only by detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support is available at immigration removal centres for detainees diagnosed with stress or depression. [322670]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* All our immigration removal centres provide primary health care services equivalent to that found in the community.

In accordance with the Detention Centre Rules 2001, all detainees undergo a health screening with a nurse within two hours of their arrival, and an appointment is made for them to see a GP within 24 hours. GPs will see detainees earlier than this if there is a particular acute need.

The health care teams in immigration removal centres include Registered Mental Nurses and provide a range of welfare services such as counselling to help detainees to manage their time in detention where they are suffering from stress of depression.

Where a detainee is suffering from a more serious form of mental illness, the centres have access to psychiatrists either to advise on the more appropriate course of action, in conjunction with the local primary care trust.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with his Italian counterparts on the removal to Italy of Eritrean detainees held in immigration removal centres. [322671]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* The UK Border Agency has regular discussions with our Italian counterparts on a variety of migration issues. This includes regular contact at senior level through the Justice and Home Affairs fora in Europe relating to issues surrounding the continued implementation of the Dublin regulations. Officials in UKBA, including a seconded member of staff permanently based in Rome, regularly discuss specific cases in terms of the Dublin regulations and the logistics of removal, and a number of these cases will relate to Eritreans in detention in the UK.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date a Minister from his Department last visited an immigration removal centre. [322672]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* I visited Dungavel House in December 2009.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary visited Yarl's Wood in February 2010 and my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office, the Member for Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier), visited Yarl's Wood in March 2010.

This information is taken from local management data and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

Entry Clearances

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what change there has been to the number of entry clearance applications granted since

the transfer of the processing of such applications from the British consulate in Tel Aviv to the British embassy in Istanbul; whether the decision to transfer responsibility for deciding such applications from Israel to Turkey was made as part of a wider Home Office policy; whether an equality impact assessment was carried out prior to this decision; and if he will make a statement. [318455]

Mr. Woolas: The hub and spoke programme was implemented in the British consulate in Tel Aviv on 7 April 2008. From this date, applications have been processed at the British embassy in Istanbul. Entry clearance decisions in Istanbul are made by a team of entry clearance officers (ECOs), all of whom at present are British nationals.

Key benefits of the hub and spoke programme include the consolidation of staff and complicated administrative functions into fewer locations to improve productivity and efficiency; improved quality and consistency of decision making; greater resilience and flexibility of the overseas network by allowing staff and their work to be located in more stable locations; and the delivery of customer service benefits such as the increase in the number of locations at which applications can be registered.

For the financial year of 2007-08, 1,886 visas were granted at the British consulate in Tel Aviv. Following the implantation of the hub and spoke programme, 1,500 visas applied for in Tel Aviv were granted in the financial year of 2008-09. Israelis do not require a visa to visit the UK.

Although a formal Equality Impact Assessment did not take place, an internal impact assessment was carried out before the hub and spoke programme was implemented.

Entry Clearances: Africa

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of the points-based immigration system on the number of doctors and nurses from Africa applying to work in the NHS. [322005]

Mr. Woolas: The points-based system enables health sector employers to recruit from abroad where no suitable residents are available. Where this is due to a national shortage of suitably skilled people the shortage occupation list eases their entry.

Entry Clearances: Married People

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of entry clearance applications for settlement as a spouse in the UK submitted to the British consulate in Tel Aviv were granted prior to the transfer of the processing of such applications to the British embassy in Istanbul; what proportion of applicants were of *(a)* Israeli and *(b)* non-Israeli background; and if he will make a statement. [321849]

Mr. Woolas: Between April 2007 and March 2008, 152 applications for spouse/civil partner settlement, or leading to settlement visas, were processed at the British consulate in Tel Aviv, with an issue rate of 98 per cent. The processing of such applications was transferred to the British embassy in Istanbul on 7 April 2008.

84 per cent. of the applicants were Israeli nationals, and 16 per cent. were non-Israeli nationals, as defined by the applicant's passport.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of entry clearance applications for settlement as a spouse in the UK submitted to the British consulate in Tel Aviv between June 2008 and May 2009 and processed by the British embassy in Istanbul were granted; what proportion of applicants were of *(a)* Israeli and *(b)* non-Israeli background; and if he will make a statement. [321850]

Mr. Woolas: Between June 2008 and May 2009, 103 applications for spouse/civil partner settlement, or leading to settlement visas, were submitted to the British consulate in Tel Aviv and processed by the British embassy in Istanbul, with an issue rate of 94 per cent.

91 per cent. of the applicants were Israeli nationals, and 9 per cent. were non-Israeli nationals, as defined by the applicant's passport.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria he plans to use to determine whether a Tier 4 visa sponsor is highly trusted; and for what reasons all Tier 4 visa sponsors should not be considered highly trusted. [321945]

Mr. Woolas: The criteria for Highly Trusted Sponsors will be published on 22 March. The scheme will be implemented on 6 April. The UK Border Agency has consulted with the education sector on the development of the criteria.

Highly trusted sponsors will be required to meet tough new additional criteria and demonstrate that they have a track record of success in terms of bringing genuine students to the UK. These guidelines are being introduced for sponsors who wish to recruit international students in categories where there is a higher risk of abuse.

In addition, all sponsors will be required to meet robust new minimum standards regarding the recruitment and retention of students.

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department examined visa requirements for students wishing to enter other countries with a substantial English language teaching sector in its recent revision of the Tier 4 points-based system. [322001]

Mr. Woolas: Yes, as part of the review of Tier 4, the student tier of the points-based system, officials examined the visa requirements in place for students in a number of comparable countries.

Entry Clearances: Palestinians

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the UK Border Agency did not issue a visa in connection with Fairtrade Fortnight to *(a)* Lina Mahmoud, *(b)* Belal Eid and *(c)* Nahed Besharieh; and if he will make a statement. [322326]

Mr. Woolas: The applications were refused as the entry clearance officer was not satisfied they met the requirements of the immigration rules. The reasons for refusal were set out in the refusal notices issued to the applicants. In light of further information received, the decision was made to issue visas. However, it has not been possible to contact the applicants to make arrangements.

Greater London

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to each London borough, the effects on each borough of changes to his Department's policies between 2003-04 and 2008-09. [319656]

Alan Johnson: The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk./

Identity Cards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he classifies the implementation of biometric passports as part of the identity card scheme. [318714]

Alan Johnson: The issues of identity cards as well as the introduction of fingerprint biometric passports are part of the National Identity Service. The provisions of the Identity Cards Act 2006 will be amended by further primary legislation so that everyone aged 16 and over who applies for a British passport will have the choice of being issued with an identity card or a passport (or both documents) and for their identity details, including facial image and fingerprint biometrics, to be recorded on the same National Identity Register.

Illegal Immigrants

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were detected at each of the main ports of entry to the United Kingdom in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [319576]

Mr. Woolas: It is Government policy to restrict the publication of Border Force management information to a regional level, as port-specific information could provide value to those seeking to circumvent our controls. The table therefore provides details of the number of illegal entrants detected by UK Border Force officers at UK ports, in 2008 and 2009, on a regional basis. The information used to answer this question has been taken from a live database and is suitable for management information purposes. It has not been subject to the detailed checks required to qualify as National Statistics.

In addition, the UK Border Agency, working together with its partners at the Juxtaposed Controls, prevented more than 28,000 individual attempts to cross the Channel illegally in 2008, and 29,000 in 2009.

	2009	*2008*
South Region	303	455
North Region	23	45
Total	326	500

Immigrants: Detainees

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children detained at *(a)* Dungavel and *(b)* Yarl's Wood have been transferred to other immigration detention centres in each of the last six months. [321958]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* Families with children can be detained at Dungavel House, Tinsley House and Yarl's Wood. Tinsley House currently accommodates family groups for 24 hours and Dungavel House for approximately 72 hours. Where detention is likely to extend beyond this timeframe, families are transferred to Yarl's Wood, which has the facilities to support longer periods of detention.

It is not possible to provide the information requested without examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. The information is published in Tables 9-14 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* children and *(b)* families detained at immigration detention centres spent the entire period of their detention at a single location in the latest period for which figures are available. [321959]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* For the period October 2009 to December 2009, 330 children left immigration removal centres. From our records, 230 had spent the entire period of their detention at a single location. These figures are based on management information. They have not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, are rounded to the nearest 5, subject to change and should be treated as provisional.

Of the balance, some will have spent the entire period of detention at a single location but will have moved with their families for reasons such as medical appointments outside the centre, or a failed removal. We could only establish the number by examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

The number of families held in immigration removal centres that spent the entire period of their detention at a single location can be determined only by examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the health and emotional well-being of children of transfers between immigration removal centres. [321960]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* The UK Border Agency takes health and emotional well-being of those in its care very seriously; this is particularly true of children who are regrettably detained—with their parents—pending their removal after they refuse to leave the UK voluntarily. We introduced a new duty in November 2009 contained in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, which requires the Agency to protect and promote the welfare of children. The Office of the Children's Champion, which includes professional advisers, is responsible for challenging the Agency to ensure it meets its obligations, and they provide constant advice and support to those responsible for detention and escorting matters.

Prior to detention, the Agency conducts a formal assessment of each child to identify any particular medical, safeguarding or welfare needs in order to make the necessary arrangements to support them while in detention.

Children can only be held in three immigration removal centres. Tinsley House currently holds families for 24 hours and Dungavel House for up to three days. Those families who will be held for longer periods are taken to Yarl's Wood, as are those families in Scotland whose flights are departing from London. We do not normally move families between centres for any other reason.

Prior to the transfer to Yarl's Wood, a number of assessments are made to take specific account of the safeguarding and welfare of the children making the journey. These include:

The size of vehicle required to accommodate the whole family together;

The length of the journey to ensure adequate comfort breaks, suitable child activity packs, dietary requirements and refreshments;

Appropriate clothing for the weather;

Feeding and changing facilities for babies and any requirement for child safety chairs and booster seats.

The discharging centre provides Yarl's Wood with all health records, welfare assessments and care plans, documenting any special needs or support in place for the family to ensure continuity of care.

On arrival at the receiving centre the family and children are individually re-assessed by a nurse within two hours and an appointment made for them to see a GP the following day. In line with the centre's safeguarding arrangements, the children continue to have their welfare monitored and assessed on a regular basis by the multi-disciplinary team of healthcare, educational, operational and other staff, together with the resident senior social worker.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether members of any families being detained at immigration removal centres have been detained at different locations in each of the last 12 months. [322377]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* Local management information indicates that, at 11 March 2010, 18 family members (from six families) presently detained at an immigration removal centre had been detained under Immigration Act powers at a different location within the past 12 months.

The figures provided do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional.

National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. The information is published in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum number of children is which may be detained at each immigration removal centre; and how many children were detained at each centre in the last six months. [322378]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* There are 66 rooms providing a total of 152 beds where families with children may be accommodated in the immigration detention estate. They are not all occupied at any one time since their use is dependent on the make-up and size of the family.

Children may be detained as part of a family group in three immigration removal centres. Tinsley House has four family rooms of six and seven beds. Dungavel House has two three-bedded family rooms and Yarl's Wood has 60 two-bedded family rooms. The rooms are inter-linked to allow larger family groups to be accommodated together.

The number of children who entered detention solely under Immigration Act powers for the last six months of 2009 is published in table 9 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom Third Quarter and Table 9.1 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom Fourth Quarter which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Immigration

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department takes to monitor the destination of those refused leave to remain in the UK who have not yet been removed from the UK. [315901]

Mr. Woolas: The introduction of better contact management through the use of physical reporting at reporting centres and police stations together with the use of electronic monitoring (tagging and voice recognition) has allowed the UK Border Agency to maintain contact with asylum applicants at all stages of the process and with those who have breached immigration law.

The UK Border Agency's Country of Origin Information Service continually monitors the situation in the countries of origin of those who seek international protection in the UK, taking into account information from a wide range of recognised and respected sources. We enforce the return of an individual only where we and the courts are satisfied that the person concerned will not be at risk.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on payments made in relation to immigration casework consequent on complaints to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman in each of the last five years. [322332]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not break down data on compensation payments into specific business areas. As a result of this, the information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department paid in compensation in respect of immigration casework in each of the last five years. [322333]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office prepares its accounts in accordance with UK GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) adapted for the public sector in accordance with guidance issued by HM Treasury.

The information is not collated in the way requested but compensation payments/special payments are monitored routinely as part of the broader financial management arrangements in place within the UK Border Agency.

The Agency is exploring arrangements to collate this type of information in future years.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median time taken to process an application for further leave to remain was in December 2009. [322351]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* It is not possible for the UK Border Agency to differentiate between applications for leave to remain and applications for further leave to remain. I therefore refer the hon. Member to the answer provided on 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 222W.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of complaints received by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) investigated by the IPCC. [323277]

Mr. Hanson: The IPCC is an independent body responsible for ensuring that the police complaints system in England and Wales works effectively and fairly. The IPCC is directly involved in investigating the most serious cases, which make up a small proportion of cases overall. The remainder of cases are subject to investigation by the local police force involved or to an informal procedure called local resolution carried out by the police.

However, in order to ensure that independent oversight extends to all parts of the police complaints system, complainants whose cases are dealt with by the police have a right of appeal to the IPCC.

The IPCC also has a statutory responsible for the guardianship of the police complaints system. As part of that guardianship role, the IPCC analyses and publishes complaints statistics detailing the number and type of complaints made by members of the public and their outcomes. These reports are published on the IPCC's website.

Lockerbie: Bombings

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department were consulted on the departure of Abdelbasset Al-Megrahi from the UK; [320560]

(2) whether the UK Border Agency had the power to prevent Mr. Abdelbasset Al-Megrahi from leaving the UK following his release from custody by the Scottish Executive; [320561]

(3) whether, following his release from custody by the Scottish Executive, the UK Border Agency was required to give its consent to the departure from the UK of Mr. Abdelbasset Al-Megrahi. [320562]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary was kept fully informed by officials of the possible outcomes in the event that Mr. Al-Megrahi were to be released. However, the UK Border Agency is not required to give its consent to the departure of a foreign national. A foreign national can leave the UK at any time provided there are no outstanding criminal proceedings against them. We would inform the police or other agencies to determine an appropriate operational response should we become aware that an individual of interest is seeking to depart from the UK.

In the case of Mr. Al-Megrahi he was released from prison and expressed his wish to return to Libya. The UK Border Agency was aware of this but was not required to give its consent to this action.

Members: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letters from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood dated 9 November and 15 December 2009 regarding Melicia Ann Brown (Home Office reference: B1080260). [318439]

Mr. Woolas: Reply was sent to the right hon. Member's office on 11 January 2010. A copy of the response has been sent by e-mail to the right hon. Member's office on 24 February 2010. The letter confirms that the correspondence has been passed to a caseworking unit for further consideration as the MP provided representations which required further attention.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 14 January 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton regarding Mr. I. Khan. [322725]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 4 February 2010.

A copy of the letter will be forwarded to the right hon. Member.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the

letter of 21 January 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton regarding Mrs. H. Mohsin. [322726]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 17 March 2010.

Police

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the relationship between the number of police officers in police forces and their effectiveness in carrying out frontline policing. [322946]

Mr. Hanson: This Government's investment in the police is at record levels. There are nearly 17,000 more police officers than in 1997, and more than 16,000 PCSOs on the streets. Crime is down by 36 per cent. In every area, crime is falling and confidence is increasing. 50 per cent. of the public now agree that the antisocial behaviour and crime issues that matter to them are being dealt with.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to reduce the amount of time spent by police officers on administrative tasks since 1997; what steps he plans to take in the next six months; what estimate he has made of the average amount of time spent by police officers on administration per (i) day, (ii) week and (iii) month; what recent representations he has received on police morale; what reply he gave; and if he will make a statement. [313278]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are committed to reducing bureaucracy in policing, including the amount of time spent by police officers on unnecessary administrative tasks.

This is why we have taken the following steps:

Reducing by up to 50 per cent. the amount of data that we routinely collect from police forces;

Piloting a more proportionate approach to the recording of crime and incidents;

Scrapping the requirement for police officers to complete time sheets for the purposes of activity-based costing;

Removing the requirement for police officers to complete a form when carrying out a stop and account encounter;

Investing £80 million in the rollout of mobile technology, saving officers up to 30 minutes per shift as they are able to send and receive information while on the beat;

Publishing a Policing White Paper which includes measures to improve efficiency in policing and also sets out our response to the recommendations made by Jan Berry, the independent Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate.

Over the next six months we will:

Ensure that these steps are fully implemented by all police forces;

Work with the service to formally recognise proportionate crime recording as good practice and promote its adoption by forces;

Legislate to reduce the reporting requirements for stop and search;

Support the piloting of an approach to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy involved in the police charging process; and

Continue to work with Jan Berry and the police service to encourage the adoption of more efficient business processes by police forces.

Measures of time spent on patrol and administrative tasks have been discontinued as part of the Government's commitment to reduce the burden on police forces imposed by statistical and other data. The scrapping of activity-based costing has been estimated to save up to 260,000 hours per year across the police workforce. This allows officers to concentrate their efforts on fighting crime and being more visible.

The Home Office has not received any specific representation on the subject of police morale but my ministerial colleagues and I continue to enjoy constructive and regular discussions with police stakeholders, including the police staff associations.

Powers of Entry

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 379W, on powers of entry: public consultation, what the reasons are for the time taken to publish Lord West's report; and when he expects it to be published. [323038]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Department has been in consultation with other Government Departments as part of the review on powers of entry.

Proposals on a future framework approach for powers of entry will be set out in a public consultation document and will be published later this year.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of his Department and its agencies are seconded to trade unions; what facilities are made available to them; how many days other staff of his Department and its agencies spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320663]

Mr. Woolas: One member of staff is currently seconded to PCS for a period of six months under normal secondment arrangements. The Home Office is not responsible for salary payment, or provision of facilities, during the period of secondment.

The Home Office and its agencies, UKBA, IPS and CRB, employ approximately 28,000 staff in total. There are four recognised unions with 13 members of Home Office staff working as full-time union representatives under the Departmental Facilities Agreement (one FDA, one Prospect, nine PCS and two ISU representatives). In addition to the 13 full-time representatives, we also provide three members of Home Office staff as administrative support for the union representatives.

A further 79 members of our staff (three ISU and 76 PCS representatives) undertake trade union duties on an "as required" basis. The Home Office Departmental Facilities Agreements formalise the arrangements under which our staff can claim facility time but we do not keep a central record of how much time is used.

It is not possible to calculate the exact amount of facility time agreed for union activity and for this reason, it is also not possible to provide a realistic estimate of the total cost.

As part of our Departmental Facilities Agreement full-time representatives have access to dedicated office space with associated business equipment, e.g. computers, photocopying and telephony and may also utilise departmental mail, email, internet and video conferencing facilities. Union representatives provided with "as required" facility time are given access to the same or similar facilities.

UK Border Agency

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what response his Department has made to the parliamentary ombudsman's recent report on the UK Border Agency. [322334]

Mr. Woolas: At the time the parliamentary ombudsman released her special report on the UK Border Agency, Lin Homer, the chief executive of the agency, made a statement saying:

"We take the Ombudsman's recommendations seriously and welcome the assessment that our complaints systems are improving.

The UK Border Agency is continuing to make progress in dealing with the legacy backlog of older asylum cases and has already concluded more than 220,000 cases. I am confident we are on course to conclude these cases by the summer of 2011."

UK Border Agency: Telephone Services

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many calls were made to the UK Border Agency MPs' hotline in each of the last 12 months. [322341]

Mr. Woolas: The information is in the following table

	Number
2009	
February	2,082
March	2,468
April	2,267
May	2,344
June	2,950
July	2,586
August	2,028
September	2,311
October	2,237
November	2,177
December	1,641
2010	
January	2,444
February	2,097
Total	29,632

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of providing all hon. Members with a pass code for the UK Border Agency MPs' hotline. [322348]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* The work of providing all hon. Members with a pass code for the UK Border Agency MPs' enquiry line was done as part of the day to day business of the MPs' enquiry line at minimal cost.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time members of staff work on the UK Border Agency *(a)* MPs' hotline and *(b)* public enquiry line. [322349]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* The information is in the following table:

	Full-time equivalent
(a) MPs' inquiry line	13.6
(b) Public inquiry lines	175.9

TREASURY

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effects on small businesses of the recent downturn in the economy; what assistance he plans to give during the next six months to small businesses; what representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement; [321831]

(2) what steps his Department *(a)* has taken since June 2007 and *(b)* plans to take in the next 12 months to improve the flow of credit from financial institutions to (i) small and (ii) medium-sized businesses; what recent discussions (A) he, (B) other Ministers in his Department and (C) officials in his Department have had with the Confederation of British Industry on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [321834]

Ian Pearson: The Government recognise the importance of small businesses to the UK economy. The lending commitments agreed with RBS and Lloyds over the 12 months from March 2009 have made significant amounts of lending available to creditworthy businesses. To help provide continued confidence to the business sector, these commitments will remain in place until March 2011.

The Government are also exploring the development of non-bank lending channels, as outlined in their 2009 discussion paper. Officials have engaged with key stakeholders on this topic, including the CBI which supports the idea of non-bank lending for diversifying sources of business finance. As indicated at pre-Budget report, the Government will provide an update on non-bank lending in the upcoming Budget.

More generally, the UK's small businesses proved resilient during the downturn: company liquidations were lower than in the 1990s recession and there were on average a total of 47,366 new start-ups each month in 2009—higher than both 2007 and 2008.

Ministers and Government officials have continued to engage with trade bodies and the major banks throughout the crisis and will continue to do so in order to monitor the flow of credit to businesses. Ongoing work with banks and business groups through the Small Business

Finance Forum aims to improve the transparency of banks' lending practices and help to restore confidence to the business sector.

Government have also put in place a range of wider support for small businesses. This has included:

targeted, temporary access to finance support through the 'Real Help' for business package, which included the Working Capital Scheme, Capital for Enterprise Fund and Enterprise Finance Guarantee (now extended to April 2011);

a mix of permanent and targeted, temporary tax support to ease cash flow difficulties through Time to Pay (which will extend payment times for business tax on a permanent basis), extended loss carry-back arrangements (until November 2010) and a deferral in the planned increase of the small companies taxation rate (with the rate remaining at 21 per cent. during 2010-11);

further progress in cutting the costs of regulation through a planned reduction of 25 per cent. in administrative burdens of regulation by May 2010; and

increased funding for SME employers to invest in the training of their staff through Train to Gain.

Child Trust Fund: Children in Care

Ruth Kelly: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the performance of stakeholder Child Trust Funds managed by the Official Solicitor or Accountant of Court on behalf of looked-after children. [322392]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 17 March 2010]*: The Child Trust Fund legislation provides that the Official Solicitor for England and Wales and the Official Solicitor for Northern Ireland manage the Child Trust Fund accounts of looked-after children where there is no one with parental responsibility. It is part of their duties to review the Child Trust Fund accounts under their control to ensure they continue to meet the best interests of the child.

The Child Trust Fund legislation also provides that in Scotland the Accountant of Court manage these accounts. She is responsible to Scottish Ministers.

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many domestic flights in Great Britain officials of his Department took in an official capacity in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse such flights were taken. [300969]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Tickets for domestic flights are purchased through HM Treasury's travel management company for both officials and Ministers. Separate details of travel by officials and additional information relating to tickets purchased directly by the traveller are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely change to revenue to the Exchequer arising from the first year rate tax on new motor vehicles in each of the next three financial years. [322362]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 16 March 2010]*: Differential first-year rates of vehicle excise duty (VED) will encourage the purchase of more fuel-efficient cars, by providing a strong signal to the consumer at the point of purchase.

There are 13 different standard rates of VED. From April 2010, under differential first-year rates:

cars in bands A to D—emitting up to 130 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometre (g/km)—will pay no VED in the first year;

cars in bands E to G—emitting between 130 g/km and 165 g/km—will pay the same as under the standard rate; and

cars in bands H to M—emitting over 165 g/km—will pay a rate higher than the standard rate. Only around a quarter of new cars are forecast to fall into this category and only 2 per cent. of new cars are forecast, to fall into band M and face the top rate of £950.

From 2010 onwards, the Exchequer will therefore see reduced revenue from new cars in bands A to D, but increased revenue in bands H to M. The net impact of both of these changes, against a standard rate baseline, is:

	Additional revenue (£ million)
2010-11	60
2011-12	45
2012-13	15

This will contribute to cutting carbon dioxide from motoring.

Full details of VED rates for 2010 are available at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/OwningAVehicle/HowToTaxYourVehicle/DG_172916

Government Departments: Bank Cards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance given to civil servants on spending money via Government procurement cards. [323514]

Ian Pearson: General Government Procurement Card (GPC) guidance is provided by Buying Solutions to Departments in the form of an electronic toolkit which is available in both CD ROM format or as a download from the OGC website at

www.ogc.gov.uk/procurement_documents_eprocurement.asp

Government Departments: Reviews

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisations are accredited gateway reviewers. [323579]

Ian Pearson: Organisations currently authorised to arrange and manage OGC Gateway reviews are:

OGC (on behalf of central Government)
Ministry of Defence
Department of Health/NHS
Local Partnerships (on behalf of local government)
Scottish Executive
Northern Ireland Civil Service
Dutch Government
State of Victoria (Australia)

Organisations currently piloting the Gateway review process with the objective of becoming authorised are:

Welsh Assembly Government

Police service of England and Wales (NPIA)
Government of New Zealand
Federal Government of Australia
Brisbane City Council
Australian State of Queensland
Australian State of New South Wales
Australian State of Tasmania
Australian State of South Australia
Australian State of Western Australia

Housing: Leaseback Arrangements

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of each substantive response to his Department's consultation on Regulating the sale and rent-back market. [323154]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In February 2009, HM Treasury published a consultation on regulating the sale and rent back market. A summary of the 35 responses to the consultation was published in June 2009. This document is available on the Treasury website at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consultsalerent_response020609.pdf

A copy of has been placed in the Library of the House.

Housing: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 237W, on valuation, what proportion of the £14 million of expenditure on the Automated Valuation Model has been incurred since October 2005. [323183]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency's Automated Valuation Model technology is used to support of a range of activities associated with domestic property valuation. Some 50 per cent. of expenditure has been incurred since 1 October 2005.

National Insurance Contributions

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the level of employment of a one percentage point increase in national insurance contributions. [322807]

Mr. Timms: For both small and large companies, the increase in national insurance contributions in 2011 represents only a very small proportion of their total costs. Therefore, in the climate of stronger economic growth forecast by the Treasury and independent commentators in 2011 and beyond, the Government expect the rise in national insurance contributions to be affordable, and any impact on employment to be limited. Past experience has shown such increases can be made without employment falling. The increase in 2011 is accompanied by an increase in the primary threshold to protect lower earners.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will initiate an independent review of the Valuation Office Agency's handling of the new retrospective business rates regime on firms in ports. [323155]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency has been subject to a Framework Review conducted by an HMRC Director reporting to the Minister then responsible for the Agency, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury. The Framework Review is available at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/framework_doc/voa-review-09.pdf

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* new assessments and *(b)* reassessments have been undertaken by the Valuation Office Agency in each year since 1999; and how many businesses were listed at each port in each of those years. [322287]

Ian Pearson: The information requested in respect of *(a)* and *(b)* cover the following three Rating Lists:

1995 Rating Lists—1 April 1995 to 31 March 2000
2000 Rating Lists—1 April 2000 to 31 March 2005
2005 Rating Lists—1 April 2005 to 31 March 2010

Total number of *(a)* 'new' assessments and *(b)* 'Reassessments' (other) for all classes of property undertaken by the VOA since 1 April 1999 is included in the following table.

April to March each year	*Type*	*England*	*Wales*	*England and Wales*
1999-2000	New	37,680	2,220	39,900
	Other	220,460	11,370	231,830
2000-01	New	71,660	3,170	74,830
	Other	382,700	20,500	403,200
2001-02	New	34,560	1,760	36,320
	Other	213,550	12,310	225,860
2002-03	New	33,270	1,830	35,100
	Other	220,480	12,570	233,050
2003-04	New	33,040	1,890	34,930
	Other	211,520	12,580	224,090

April to March each year	Type	England	Wales	England and Wales
2004-05	New	33,590	2,320	35,920
	Other	225,370	12,060	237,430
2005-06	New	40,580	2,630	43,210
	Other	309,570	14,680	324,250
2006-07	New	42,110	2,880	44,980
	Other	264,110	13,270	277,370
2007-08	New	38,690	2,910	41,600
	Other	247,030	14,950	261,980
2008-09	New	41,360	2,840	44,200
	Other	244,240	15,730	259,980
2009-10	New	32,340	2,050	34,400
	Other	226,230	13,760	239,990

Note:
All figures rounded to the nearest 10.

The above information has been extracted from the Valuation Office Agency's operational database.

In response to how many businesses were listed at each port in each of those years I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1335W.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people whose personal data was put at risk by HM Revenue and Customs data security incidents in 2008-09; [317292]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people whose personal data was inappropriately disclosed by HM Revenue and Customs in 2008-09; [317293]

(3) what progress HM Revenue and Customs has made towards meeting its target on the timeliness of reporting of data security incidents; [317300]

(4) what progress HM Revenue and Customs has made towards meeting its target on the reduction of data security incidents; [317301]

(5) what definition of a data security incident HM Revenue and Customs uses in relation to its departmental objective to reduce the number of such incidents by 2012; [317302]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is committed to protecting the sensitive information it has access to. To drive performance in this area, HMRC has targets:

to drive towards zero the number of data security incidents reportable to the Information Commissioner;

reduce the volume of customer data lost, and

for staff to report incidents promptly.

HMRC defines a data security incident as:

loss or theft of paper, letters and files containing 'personal data';

loss, theft or insecure disposal of portable equipment and media that carries 'personal data'; and

unauthorised disclosure of customer information.

The Department's planned actions to achieve these targets are set out in its annual business plan. The Department's performance against these objectives is set out in its annual reports and resource accounts. These are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

It is not possible to provide accurate data regarding the total number of people whose personal data was put at risk or inappropriately disclosed during 2008-09.

Taxation

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish the Treasury Minute outlining the Government's response to the Second Report from the Committee of Public Accounts' HM Revenue and Customs: Improving the processing and collection of tax HC97. [323204]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's Treasury Minute response to the Committee of Public Accounts Report—HM Revenue and Customs: improving the processing and collection of tax was published as Cm 7818 on 11 March 2010.

Taxation: Business

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration his Department has given to means of simplifying the tax system in respect of small businesses. [322806]

Mr. Timms: The Government are committed to simplifying the tax system where it can and has included simplicity as one of the six principles of the "Tax Framework for Business", on which it is currently consulting. Further information is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_governmenttaxforum_index.htm

Since 2006 the Government have brought forward measures that reduce administrative burdens imposed by the tax system on business by around £540 million

per annum. More details on the steps being taken to reduce burdens on small businesses are set out in the series of HM Revenue and Customs reports on "Delivering a new relationship with business", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/better-regulation/related-links.htm

Valuation Office Agency: Local Government

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 806W, on the Valuation Office: local government, if he will place in the Library a copy of the request for a legislative gateway submitted by the Valuation Office Agency. [323083]

Ian Pearson: HM Revenue and Customs consider this an internal policy document relating to the formulation of tax policy and should not be published.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuebill XML schema has the capacity to transfer building control notice data. [323545]

Ian Pearson: No.

Valuation Office Agency: Manpower

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* assessment officers, *(b)* staff working in the former statutory ports and *(c)* staff of the Valuation Office Agency there were in each year since 1999. [322288]

Ian Pearson: In answer to *(a)* and *(b)*, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1021W.

The average number of full-time equivalent staff employed at the Valuation Office Agency from 1999-2000 to 2008-09 was:

	Average number of staff employed during the year (full-time equivalents)
1999-2000	4,016
2000-01	3,948
2001-02	3,814
2002-03	3,843
2003-04	4,436
2004-05	4,955
2005-06	5,084
2006-07	4,428
2007-08	4,096
2008-09	3,843

TRANSPORT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance his Department has issued to Network Rail on the requirement for environmental impact assessments to be undertaken in respect of its telecommunications masts under the terms of the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment, 2001/42/EC. [323159]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has given no explicit advice to Network Rail on the requirement to undertake environmental impact assessments under the terms of EU Directive 2001/42/EC.

Aviation: Accidents

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many incidents were recorded of objects falling from commercial aeroplanes over the UK in each of the last five years; and how many such objects have caused *(a)* personal injury and *(b)* damage to buildings. [323015]

Paul Clark: The statistics requested are set out in the following table.

	Reports	*Damage*	*Injury*
Aircraft components (commercial aircraft)			
2010	[1]	[1]	[1]
2009	4	0	0
2008	5	0	0
2007	3	0	0
2006	1	0	0
2005	4	1	0
Ice (all aircraft)			
2010	2	2	0
2009	22	13	1
2008	19	11	0
2007	25	17	0
2006	27	17	1
2005	27	18	0

[1] No reports so far

BAM Nuttall

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many infrastructure projects funded in part or in whole by his Department are under construction by BAM Nuttall; how many of those projects are *(a)* design and build projects, *(b)* being financed under the pain/gain mechanism and *(c)* past their target completion date. [320588]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency currently has three maintenance projects under construction by BAM Nuttall. The details are as follows:

Project Title	*(a and b) Type*	*(c) Target Completion Date*
A5 Beech Road-M1 Junction 9 Lighting Renewal	Pain and Gain Mechanism	31 March 2010
M3 Hard Shoulder Strengthening Phase 1	Pain and Gain Mechanism	30 April 2010
M3 Hard Shoulder Strengthening Phase 2	Pain and Gain Mechanism	30 April 2010

For local major schemes it is the responsibility of the promoting authority to decide on the most suitable procurement route. From the local major schemes currently under construction in which the Department for Transport has agreed to contribute funding, the following table provides information on those being constructed by BAM Nuttall.

Project Name	(a and b) Type of Contract	(c) Completion Target Date
Cambridgeshire Guided Busway	Design and Build including a Pain and Gain Mechanism.	February 2009
Connecting Derby Phase 2 and 3	Pain and Gain Mechanism	December 2010

The Department is also providing funding to a number of Community Infrastructure Fund schemes. One of which is the South East Hampshire Rapid Transit Phase 1 scheme between Fareham and Gosport. BAM Nuttall was appointed by Hampshire county council to deliver the main construction aspects of the scheme. This contract is a standard construction contract using a priced bill of quantities. A target completion date as such is not applicable as community infrastructure funding is made available up until 31 March 2011.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322083]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport includes seven agencies, a shared service centre and the central Department, with a total staff of over 19,000. The figures provided here for lost and stolen property are for the entire Department including its agencies and shared service centre. The figures provided do not include losses or thefts where records are not available, where equipment has not been procured centrally, or where such losses or thefts were not reported.

The number of items of lost and stolen property from the Department in the last 12 months and their total estimated replacement cost are as follows.

Item	Lost	Stolen	Estimated cost (£)
Laptop computers	2	18	7,972.00
PC	—	1	500.00
Laptop encryption dongles	9	1	250.00
Blackberry	15	4	5,130.00
Blackberry charger	3	—	24.34
Iron Key memory stick	—	2	55.87
Mobile phone	22	4	806.00
USB broadband modem	—	1	50.00
Satellite navigation	1	—	79.99
PC mouse	4	—	40.00
PC keyboard	1	—	10.00
Radios	1	1	400.00
Cash	3	—	15.00
Watch	3	—	[illegible]
Pair of cufflinks	1	—	[illegible]
Silver coloured metal three flowers/butterflies stones	1	—	[illegible]
Keys	1	—	[illegible]
Wallet	3	—	[illegible]
Phillips shaver white blue	1	—	[illegible]
Black strap watch gents	1	—	[illegible]
Leather money holder with £5.55 inside	1	—	[illegible]
Ladies purse	1	—	[illegible]
Metal framed glasses	1	1	[illegible]
Gold bracelet	1	—	[illegible]
Black hat	1	—	[illegible]
USB con	1	—	[illegible]
Photograph	1	—	[illegible]
Bag	1	—	[illegible]
Encryption fob	1	—	[illegible]
Brown bag	1	—	[illegible]
Pair of cufflinks	1	—	[illegible]
Black umbrella	1	—	[illegible]
Travel dress and money	1	—	[illegible]
Bracelet	1	—	[illegible]
Whole metal propel pencil	1	—	[illegible]
Radio terminal	2	—	[illegible]
Shirts	1	—	[illegible]
Wash bag	1	1	[illegible]
Diamond solitaire ring	1	—	[illegible]
Grit from grit bin	—	1	[illegible]
Bikes	—	2	[illegible]

East Coast Railway Line

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on the effectiveness of the operation of the East Coast Main Line route; and if he will make a statement. [322793]

Chris Mole: There have been no significant representations received by the Department for Transport relating to the effectiveness of the East Coast route.

Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the total carbon dioxide emissions from buses in the last 10 years; and what projection he has made of such emissions from buses in the next *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20 and *(c)* 50 years. [317024]

Mr. Khan: Bus carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions for the last 10 years can be found in Table 3.7 of Transport Statistics Great Britain (TSGB) at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/energyenvironment/tsgbchapter3energyenvi2009.xls

The Department for Transport's most recent forecasts of total road transport carbon dioxide emissions for England were produced as part of the road transport forecasts for 2010, 2015, and 2025. These are available in 'Road Traffic Forecasts 2008: Results from the Department for Transport's National Transport Model', which is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/ntm/roadtransportforcasts08/rtf08.pdf

The total forecast changes in carbon dioxide emissions for Public Service Vehicles (PSVs), which includes buses and coaches, forecast percentage changes in PSV carbon dioxide emissions in England compared with 2003 for 2010, 2015 and 2025 are provided in the following table:

Carbon dioxide emissions percentage change compared with 2003. England

	Percentage
2010	-3
2015	-2
2025	-0.4

These figures include an assumption for rising congestion levels, causing slowing vehicle speeds and increasing CO_2 emissions as a result.

No such forecasts are available for 2020, 2030, and 2060.

Heathrow Airport: High Speed Two

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate has been made of the effect on the number of flights to and from Heathrow Airport of High Speed Two coming into operation. [323360]

Chris Mole: No specific estimate has been made of the effect on the number of flights to and from Heathrow. Modelling carried out by HS2 Ltd estimates that a high speed rail line from London to the West Midlands reduces the number of daily air passengers between all UK airports by 11,000. A wider network would present greater potential for modal shift from aviation.

Midland Metro

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he plans to release funding for the Midland Metro extension. [323171]

Mr. Khan: On 18 March 2010, the Department for Transport announced initial funding approval for the Midland Metro Line One extension scheme promoted by Centra, West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive.

In providing initial approval, the Department has indicated that it is willing to provide up to £81 million towards the scheme costs subject to some additional development work being undertaken by the promoter. This is a significant first step. No funding will be released until the promoter has met all of our conditions and remaining approval processes.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 845W, on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), and with reference to the draft Better Regulation Executive report, whether the DVLA's draft enforcement strategy is the same as the enforcement policy currently being drafted. [323062]

Paul Clark: The two things are not the same.

The enforcement strategy deals with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's responsibility with respect to Vehicle Excise Duty enforcement.

The recent Better Regulation Executive report focused on the regulation of business. Their reference to the enforcement policy relates to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's operation of the Registration of Number Plate Suppliers scheme.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost to the public purse of administering the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's free prize draw promotion for motorists renewing their vehicle tax online or by telephone has been to date. [323289]

Paul Clark: The cost to the public purse of administering the free prize draw for motorists renewing their vehicle tax online or by telephone is as follows:

	£
June 2008-March 2009	13,697.69
April 2009-March 2010	11,332

The cars offered as prizes were donated free of charge by the manufacturer.

Network Rail:

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what costs Network Rail incurred on air journeys within Great Britain since its inception; [323719]

(2) how much Network Rail spent on *(a)* drivers and *(b)* taxis for use by executive staff in each year since its inception; [323720]

(3) what *(a)* salaries, *(b)* bonuses, *(c)* emoluments, *(d)* pension contributions and *(e)* expenses were paid to executive staff employed by Network Rail in each year since its inception; [323721]

(4) what costs Network Rail incurred on *(a)* legal advice, *(b)* marketing agencies and public relations, *(c)* public affairs, *(d)* agency staff, *(e)* redundancy payments and *(f)* other severance payments in each year since its inception. [323732]

Chris Mole: Network Rail is a private sector not-for-dividend company limited by guarantee. The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested.

This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Railways

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research has been done on the business case on the proposed route of a high-speed rail link *(a)* including starting with a link between London and Birmingham and *(b)* directly from London on to the north of England and Scotland. [323361]

Chris Mole: The report published by HS2 Ltd estimates the benefit:cost ratio of their proposed line from London to the West Midlands to be 2.4:1, rising to 2.7:1 with the inclusion of wider economic benefits such as agglomeration.

The report also made a strategic assessment of the business case for a range of options for a network linking London to Scotland, and concluded that the 'Inverse A' network, with branches either side of the Pennines, was most promising with an indicative benefit:cost ratio of 2.3:1.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which organisations have informed his Department of their support for a shorter journey time by rail between London and Birmingham. [323362]

Chris Mole: The Department receives regular correspondence and other representations from a range of organisations on a range of issues, including high speed rail.

"High Speed Rail", the Command Paper published on 11 March 2010, sets out the Government's intention to consult by the autumn on the proposals it contains. It is at this stage that all interested parties will have opportunity to comment on the proposed high speed rail network, including any journey time savings it could deliver.

A summary list and the full text of detailed submissions that stakeholders submitted during the engagement process undertaken by HS2 Ltd was published alongside "High Speed Rail".

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment has been made of the economic effects of a reduction in rail journey times of 20 minutes between London and Birmingham; and if he will make a statement. [323363]

Chris Mole: HS2 Ltd assessed the comparative business cases of new high speed and conventional lines between London and the West Midlands, which would deliver a 35 minute and 20 minute reduction in journey times respectively (assuming the conventional line, like the high speed proposal, included no intermediate stations between the two conurbations).

Its conclusion was that the slower journey times offered by a conventional speed line would reduce the number of people travelling on the line in comparison to the high speed alternative by 20 per cent. This would cause overall benefits to fall by 23 per cent. or £6.7 billion, in contrast to a net cost saving to Government of around £1 billion.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment has been made of the effects of tunnelling activities associated with the high-speed rail route proposed in Chesham and Amersham constituency on chalk aquifers in the area. [323364]

Chris Mole: The potential for the construction of HS2 to affect surface drainage and ground water would be fully assessed during the detailed design stage of the project, which itself would commence following consultation should the Government choose to proceed.

HS2 Ltd would draw from the experience gained by others in the construction of tunnels through similar geology. Appropriate mitigation of such effects would be undertaken during construction, if necessary.

Railways: Birmingham

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the statement of 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 446-50, on high speed rail, when work will commence on the section of the route between the Birmingham spur and where the line joins the existing West Coast Mainline north of Lichfield; how many tracks there will be on this section; and whether any additional tracks will run adjacent to the existing West Coast Mainline. [322686]

Chris Mole: 'High Speed Rail' states that subject to public consultation and parliamentary approval, work on this section of the line could commence after the opening of Crossrail from 2017. The preferred route option as outlined in 'High Speed Rail' indicates that the line would have two tracks. The new line would not run adjacent to the West Coast Main Line other than within the immediate vicinity of the junction between the two, which would be located to the north-east of Lichfield. Maps setting out this information are available on the Department for Transport's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/highspeedrail

Railways: Chesham

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which roads in Chesham and Amersham constituency have been identified for the routing of traffic in connection with the construction of the High Speed Two route; and what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the volume of traffic on such roads of the construction of High Speed Two. [322674]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* We would seek to minimise the effects of construction wherever possible. Initial decisions on whether to build a high speed line and what route that line should take will be taken in light of the autumn 2010 consultation. Thereafter the full effects and any associated mitigation measures would be subject to an environmental impact assessment, as part of the Hybrid Bill process, which would itself be subject to further public scrutiny.

Railways: North West

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the Statement of 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 446-50, on high speed rail, when he expects work to commence north of where the proposed high speed line joins the existing West Coast Mainline north of Lichfield to provide a high speed rail service to Leeds and to Manchester. [322687]

Chris Mole: Subject to public consultation and parliamentary approval, the initial London to Birmingham high speed line would join onto the West Coast Main Line near Lichfield. This would allow high speed services to run up the West Coast Main Line to destinations including Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow. Construction of this initial leg would not start until after the opening of the Crossrail line from 2017 at the earliest.

Following on from this initial leg, High Speed Rail also proposes an initial core high speed network which extends further north, with high speed lines extending beyond the West Midlands to Manchester and Leeds. The initial core high speed network is now subject to detailed planning and technical work and it is not therefore possible at this stage to state when construction of this section of the network might commence.

Railways: Safety

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions the Secretary of State has had with the Office of Rail Regulation on the number of maintenance staff required to be employed by Network Rail in order to maintain present safety standards; and if he will make a statement. [323236]

Chris Mole: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 28 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 999W.

The independent Office of Rail Regulation has reviewed Network Rail's proposals for the restructuring of its maintenance function so as to be assured that the safety implications of the changes are being well managed. The Office of Rail Regulation announced the outcome of this review on 3 March. Ministers have discussed the proposals in the course of their routine meetings with the independent Office of Rail Regulation.

Railways: Todmorden

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to his contribution of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 547-48, on the Todmorden rail link, what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for a fast direct train link from Burnley to Manchester via the Todmorden curve; and if he will make a statement. [323001]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has had recent discussions with the scheme promoters, Network Rail and Northern Rail about the provision of a direct service between Burnley and Manchester via a reinstated curve at Todmorden. It has been confirmed that such a scheme is feasible, but it would require capital funding of around £7 million for the reinstatement of the Todmorden Curve and it is most likely that ongoing subsidy would be required at least in the early years.

The promoters are aware that both capital and initial ongoing subsidy costs of the scheme have to be funded through local and regional funding sources. The Government provide funding to the region through the regional funding allocation so that they can decide what projects should be given priority from the resources available. Once implemented, if the scheme demonstrates its success after three years then the Department for Transport would consider funding the service as part of the national rail network, subject to funds being available in the period 2014-19 (control period 5).

Roads: East Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make it his policy not to take any definitive decisions pursuant to the public inquiry into the compulsory purchase orders necessary to allow the Bexhill to Hastings link road to proceed before the forthcoming general election. [323172]

Mr. Khan: The inspector's report for the Bexhill to Hastings link road orders was received on 12 March 2010 and is being considered. A decision as to whether or not to confirm the orders will be made in due course.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what timetable applies to the submission to the Secretary of State of the report by the Inspector on the public inquiry for the Bexhill to Hastings link road. [323437]

Mr. Khan: The inspector's report for the Bexhill to Hastings link road orders has now been received and is being considered. A decision as to whether or not to confirm the orders will be made in due course.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the Inspector's report on the public inquiry for the Bexhill to Hastings link road is required to be considered by any person or authority other than the Secretary of State. [323508]

Mr. Khan: The Inspector's report for the Bexhill to Hastings link road has now been received and is being considered. The Secretary of State for Transport delegates responsibility for confirming Transport Orders following a Public Inquiry to officials.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of population on road improvements in (a) England, (b) the East of England and (c) Essex in each of the last 10 years. [323332]

Mr. Khan: A table containing the information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The table includes estimated expenditure on motorways and trunk roads in the East of England, but expenditure on the strategic road network is not available by local authority boundary. The table also excludes shadow tolls for design, build, finance and operate contracts on the strategic road network.

Rolling Stock: North of England

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps the Government plans to take to provide additional diesel train capacity in the North of England. [323438]

Chris Mole: Discussions are taking place with Northern Rail to plan and justify the provision of additional vehicles to meet peak-hour capacity requirements in the northern cities, and the Department for Transport has already agreed some contract changes with Northern Rail, whereby a net 18 additional diesel vehicles will be used to lengthen certain train services. The electrification of the Great Western main line, and routes in the north-west, will release further diesel vehicles for deployment in the north.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what consultation his Department undertook prior to the clawback of £260,295 funding from The Hereford Academy; if he will review the decision to implement the funding clawback; and if he will make a statement. [323005]

Mr. Coaker: As with maintained schools, funding for academies is primarily based on pupil numbers. The funding agreement for The Hereford Academy provides for a clawback of funding should actual pupil numbers fall short of funded numbers by more than 2.5 per cent.

Following consultation with The Hereford Academy, it was decided to apply a clawback over an extended period by reducing monthly payments through to August 2011, so as to reduce the impact. The academy has replied seeking a reduction in the amount to be clawed back; this case is currently being considered. In the meantime a clawback has not been put into effect.

Children: Death

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many deaths of children *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each local authority area under the age of five were reported in each of the last five years; how many such deaths were attributable to neglect or lack of parental care; and how many such children had been monitored by local authority children's or social services before their death. [315357]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 3 February 2010]:* Data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for each of the last five years from 2004 show that 3,591, 3,561, 3,716, 3,665, and 3,699 deaths of children aged 0 to four were registered each year in England and Wales. The following table gives the number of such deaths by local authority area.

Over that period only one death of a child aged under five was registered as having an underlying cause of "neglect and abandonment". (This category excludes children aged under 28 days.) It is not possible however to determine the number of cases where neglect was a factor in deaths registered as being due to other underlying causes.

Data on the number of child deaths where the child was being provided with a service from their local authority's children's social care at the time of the death are not collected centrally.

Counts of deaths in children aged 0 to four years by local authority in England, 2004-08

Local authority	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Deaths (children) 2008*
Barking and Dagenham	21	14	21	19	22
Barnet	16	33	15	19	26
Barnsley	20	13	17	13	7
Bath and North East Somerset	10	4	12	10	5
Bedfordshire	23	33	24	19	30
Bexley	18	13	13	13	13
Birmingham	155	137	167	154	157
Blackburn with Darwen	15	23	19	22	17
Blackpool	9	9	19	12	10
Bolton	26	29	34	24	31
Bournemouth	8	13	10	7	7
Bracknell Forest	4	8	8	8	9
Bradford	52	84	71	68	77
Brent	22	24	32	29	38
Brighton and Hove	23	19	21	18	16
Bristol, City of	33	30	28	28	42
Bromley	20	13	15	14	15
Buckinghamshire	25	30	25	35	33
Bury	16	11	13	11	9
Calderdale	19	19	15	18	20
Cambridgeshire	30	29	35	34	40
Camden	21	19	13	13	12
Cheshire	46	39	43	38	43
City of London and Hackney	19	29	24	32	31
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	31	29	26	27	28
Coventry	37	22	22	27	41
Croydon	23	41	36	29	34
Cumbria	25	21	28	24	27
Darlington	7	8	13	10	10
Derby	18	15	12	26	26
Derbyshire	54	33	40	33	44
Devon	41	36	32	38	28
Doncaster	20	29	30	26	27
Dorset	18	22	19	19	15
Dudley	14	28	26	14	28

Counts of deaths in children aged 0 to four years by local authority in England, 2004-08

Deaths (children)

Local authority	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Durham	27	33	34	28	25
Ealing	21	24	30	20	24
East Riding of Yorkshire	22	15	10	11	16
East Sussex	27	19	33	25	35
Enfield	24	32	35	31	28
Essex	70	62	73	85	75
Gateshead	9	14	18	15	16
Gloucestershire	33	32	28	35	28
Greenwich	29	16	29	27	19
Halton	11	11	12	15	9
Hammersmith and Fulham	9	14	13	9	11
Hampshire	55	47	59	58	52
Haringey	33	34	30	23	25
Harrow	20	31	15	17	12
Hartlepool	8	3	11	15	3
Havering	11	6	15	10	8
Herefordshire, County of	9	12	8	6	10
Hertfordshire	55	62	50	58	73
Hillingdon	15	15	20	27	16
Hounslow	22	24	12	26	24
Isle of Wight	7	1	6	6	8
Islington	21	17	20	15	15
Kensington and Chelsea	4	9	7	9	5
Kent	68	83	78	74	77
Kingston upon Hull, City of	15	16	29	15	25
Kingston upon Thames	13	9	8	5	3
Kirklees	46	41	46	42	43
Knowsley	13	11	5	10	12
Lambeth	31	31	28	28	29
Lancashire	89	93	88	82	84
Leeds	50	66	61	61	52
Leicester	33	30	37	41	34
Leicestershire	18	44	43	35	34
Lewisham	18	29	23	20	35
Lincolnshire	47	38	40	45	44
Liverpool	33	46	36	33	35
Luton	22	21	28	26	24
Manchester	58	58	41	64	60
Medway	24	14	17	15	13
Merton	18	13	21	11	15
Middlesbrough	11	15	8	10	14
Milton Keynes	20	20	22	16	24
Newcastle upon Tyne	21	18	12	11	23
Newham	53	28	45	43	28
Norfolk	41	42	44	47	41
North East Lincolnshire	8	11	13	17	12
North Lincolnshire	12	13	12	6	10
North Somerset	9	6	10	10	10
North Tyneside	10	9	8	9	5
North Yorkshire	28	29	23	27	24
Northamptonshire	56	41	53	50	49
Northumberland	6	10	10	23	11
Nottingham	27	29	37	29	19
Nottinghamshire	44	38	46	49	49
Oldham	26	17	27	22	23
Oxfordshire	39	33	41	31	39
Peterborough	12	23	23	20	17
Plymouth	15	17	13	21	17
Poole	8	6	8	8	10
Portsmouth	13	10	10	11	15
Reading	18	17	14	17	25
Redbridge	26	20	29	28	19
Redcar and Cleveland	16	7	13	6	5
Richmond upon Thames	7	11	6	9	6

Counts of deaths in children aged 0 to four years by local authority in England, 2004-08

Local authority	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Deaths (children) 2008*
Rochdale	14	17	22	21	19
Rotherham	28	20	17	22	26
Rutland	1	3	2	1	4
Salford	17	17	20	21	23
Sandwell	32	37	39	37	47
Sefton	10	25	14	7	12
Sheffield	44	34	45	54	34
Shropshire	14	12	13	16	19
Slough	10	16	16	16	22
Solihull	9	14	15	10	20
Somerset	28	24	23	26	27
South Gloucestershire	16	9	16	7	5
South Tyneside	7	7	12	8	5
Southampton	7	15	14	14	21
Southend-on-Sea	9	9	10	8	6
Southwark	33	23	34	48	36
St. Helens	12	16	21	11	12
Staffordshire	48	55	53	70	50
Stockport	22	18	10	16	18
Stockton-on-Tees	21	8	14	11	15
Stoke-on-Trent	33	34	25	23	21
Suffolk	48	25	28	47	41
Sunderland	26	8	16	19	10
Surrey	40	51	48	55	49
Sutton	10	12	12	9	18
Swindon	17	12	10	14	15
Tameside	11	10	20	12	20
Telford and Wrekin	12	10	17	6	22
Thurrock	8	9	17	16	14
Torbay	6	10	8	6	6
Tower Hamlets	20	20	20	25	15
Trafford	7	9	14	15	12
Wakefield	26	27	22	19	32
Walsall	37	36	28	32	36
Waltham Forest	36	24	31	24	27
Wandsworth	15	29	20	19	23
Warrington	14	14	12	10	14
Warwickshire	39	32	21	29	36
West Berkshire	8	9	13	11	8
West Sussex	38	31	51	41	35
Westminster	17	16	18	12	8
Wigan	14	19	31	23	19
Wiltshire	20	22	24	14	31
Windsor and Maidenhead	6	4	10	9	9
Wirral	19	22	16	21	22
Wokingham	3	4	7	11	8
Wolverhampton	27	21	23	17	28
Worcestershire	39	41	31	40	21
York	10	16	11	13	9
England	3,591	3,561	3,716	3,665	3,699

Source:
Data extract from the SOPHIE database. Boundaries assigned using the August 2008 National Statistics postcode directory. Contact: Healthgeog@ons.gov.uk

Children: Health

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the relative fitness levels of pupils who walk or cycle to school compared to those who are driven. [320940]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have not commissioned any work comparing fitness levels of children who walk or cycle to school, to those who are driven.

Neither is any assessment currently made of children's fitness levels on a national scale. We do, however, measure children's physical activity levels in line with the chief medical officer's (CMO) recommendations that children aged 5 to 16 need at least 60 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity every day to be healthy. The

Health Survey for England 2008 showed that 32 per cent. of boys and 24 per cent. of girls aged two to 15 were meeting the CMO recommendation.

Children's Centres: Public Relations

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on public relations in respect of Sure Start children's centres in each year since 2004; how much is planned to be spent in 2009-10: and if he will make a statement. [304044]

Dawn Primarolo: The amount spent on public relations in respect of Sure Start Children's Centres is set out in the following table. Children's Centres are becoming a universal service for young children and their families—it is important that all families are aware of the services centres offer and are able to access them. So this financial year, a major national communications campaign, including public relations activities, has been funded to raise awareness of children's centres.

Table 1: Spending on public relations specifically related to Sure Start children's centres where figures are available since 2004

Financial Year	Amount (£)
2009/10	346,000
2008/09	13,000
2007/08	35,000

Departmental Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* Entry to Employment, *(b)* community service places, *(c)* community service local authority pilots, *(d)* opportunities to participate in community service at school, *(e)* Youth Taskforce, *(f)* Youth Opportunity Fund, *(g)* Youth Capital Fund, *(h)* Positive Activities for Young People, *(i)* Empowering Young People pilots, *(j)* residentials (including Do it 4 Real), *(k)* Youth Sector Development Fund, *(l)* Youth Leadership Fund, *(m)* Youth Workforce Reform, *(n)* Myplace, *(o)* Youth Media Fund and *(p)* other activity programmes for young people in 2008-09; and how much his Department plans to spend on each such programme in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [318118]

Dawn Primarolo: Table 1 as follows shows spend on each of the programmes for 2008-09 and allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11, except for item *(h)* Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP). Allocations for this are provided in table 2 as funding for PAYP is included in the area based grant so while local authorities receive a nominal allocation, decisions on planned and actual spend are determined locally.

No funding has been allocated for any of these programmes in 2011-12 as this is outside the current spending review period.

Table 1: Actual and planned spend (for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11)

£ million

	Actual spend in 2008-09	Planned spend 2009-10	2010-11[1]
(a) Entry to Employment	170.0	223.0	[2]
(b) Community service[3]	0	[4]68.0	[4]78.0
(c) Community service local authority pilots[5]	0	2.0	5.0
(d) Opportunities to participate in community service at school[6]	0	2.0	9.0
(e) Youth Taskforce	12.5	22.2	19.6
(f) Youth Opportunity Fund	36.0	40.9	41.2
(g) Youth Capital Fund[7]	29.0	46.6	26.5
(i) Empowering Young People pilots	6.7	0.0	0.0
(j) Residentials (including Do It 4 Real)	5.5	6.3	6.5
(k) Youth Sector Development Fund (YSDF)	13.5	36.2	39.7
(l) Youth Leadership Fund	0.7	2.3	3.1
(m) Young People's Workforce Reform	6.0	10.0	10.0
(n) myplace capital	2.4	27.8	133.7
(o) Youth Media Fund	3.7	3.3	4.1
(p) Other activity programmes for young people	0.0	0.0	0.0

[1] 2010-11 data are based on allocations.
[2] In 2010-11 Entry to Employment (E2E) will become part of provision under the broader Foundation Learning pathway. Funding for Foundation Learning has yet to be determined within the 16-19 further education budget.
[3] Funding of £146 million was made available to deliver Community Service following the announcement in April 2009.
[4] Includes £64 million/year for community action opportunities as part of E2E (2009-10) and Foundation Learning (2010-11). This funding covers both the overall learning provision and the community action element within it: it therefore overlaps with the funding set out in line *(a)*.
[5] The funding for local authority pilots is also included in the figure provided for *(b)*.
[6] The funding provided to support all schools in providing opportunities to engage their pupils in community service is also included in the figure provided for *(b)*.
[7] Youth Capital Fund (YCF) includes YCF+ funding.
Note:
Do It 4 Real, Youth Media Fund, YSDF and Youth Leadership Fund spend includes contributions from other Government Departments.

Table 2: Positive Activities for Young People allocations within the area based grant (for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11)

£ million

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
(h) Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)	52.85	74.50	94.50

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department and its agencies. [322570]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The 2009 People Survey results for DCSF are now available in the House Libraries. These results are also available on the DCSF website at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/staffsurvey/

The Department does not have any agencies.

Free School Meals: GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals were entered for GCSEs in each subject in 2009. [318410]

Mr. Coaker: The information is shown in the following table.

Number and percentage of pupils entered for GCSEs in each subject in 2009 by free school meal eligibility

	Number of FSM pupils entered	*Percentage of all FSM pupils at the end of Key Stage 4*	*Number of non-FSM pupils entered*	*Percentage of all non-FSM pupils at the end of Key Stage 4*
Biological Science	3,525	4.7	67,757	13.4
Chemistry	2,985	4.0	64,334	12.8
Physics	2,954	4.0	64,231	12.7
Core Science	53,925	72.5	378,560	75.1
Additional Science	30,470	41.0	275,635	54.7
Additional Applied Science	6,965	9.4	39,902	7.9
Single Award Science	53,927	72.5	378,603	75.1
English	67,351	90.5	487,358	96.6
Maths	68,130	91.6	489,359	97.0
Statistics	6,112	8.2	63,908	12.7
Design and Technology and Electronics	1,028	1.4	10,583	2.1
Design and Technology and Food Technology	7,003	9.4	58,591	11.6
Design and Technology and Graphics	5,498	7.4	49,547	9.8
Design and Technology and Resistant Materials Technology	7,889	10.6	60,360	12.0
Design and Technology and Systems Control	436	0.6	5,325	1.1
Design and Technology and Textiles Technology	4,551	6.1	34,133	6.8
Office Technology	3,465	4.7	28,372	5.6
Information Technology	3,791	5.1	46,167	9.2
Business Studies	5,696	7.7	63,969	12.7
Home Economics	3,401	4.6	19,158	3.8
Geography	11,049	14.9	137,972	27.4
History	13,466	18.1	160,715	31.9
Music	2,951	4.0	39,641	7.9
Art and Design	17,714	23.8	135,362	26.8
Fine Art	4,019	5.4	36,876	7.3
English Literature	44,942	60.4	399,628	79.2
Drama	8,124	10.9	70,021	13.9
Media, Film and Television Studies	7,314	9.8	52,715	10.5
Physical Education	10,314	13.9	117,719	23.3
Religious Studies	16,202	21.8	137,223	27.2
French	10,273	13.8	130,311	25.8
German	3,098	4.2	58,014	11.5
Spanish	3,294	4.4	42,685	8.5
Italian	171	0.2	2,615	0.5
Arabic	676	0.9	751	0.1
Bengali	581	0.8	598	0.1
Chinese	109	0.1	1,168	0.2
Dutch	209	0.3	211	0.0
Gujarati	38	0.1	718	0.1
Japanese	48	0.1	797	0.2
Modern Greek	25	0.0	346	0.1
Modern Hebrew	12	0.0	230	0.0
Panjabi	111	0.1	760	0.2

Number and percentage of pupils entered for GCSEs in each subject in 2009 by free school meal eligibility

	Number of FSM pupils entered	*Percentage of all FSM pupils at the end of Key Stage 4*	*Number of non-FSM pupils entered*	*Percentage of all non-FSM pupils at the end of Key Stage 4*
Persian	144	0.2	253	0.1
Polish	61	0.1	2,021	0.4
Portuguese	254	0.3	938	0.2
Russian	62	0.1	871	0.2
Turkish	523	0.7	624	0.1
Urdu	1,248	1.7	2,747	0.5

Notes:
1. Figures are revised.
2. Figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained schools.
Source:
National Pupil Database

GCE A-level

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils not eligible for free school meals achieved three A grades at A-level in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [311636]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* Pupil level data relating to free school meal eligibility were not collected in 1997. In 2008, 14,431 (10.5 per cent.) pupils not eligible for free school meals achieved three or more A grades at A-level. The percentage is of all pupils not eligible for free schools meals entered for at least one GCE/Applied GCE A level/Double Award in 2008.

The figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2007) in maintained schools only who were eligible for free school meals when they were academic age 16. The figures do not include the achievement of students in further education sector colleges previously eligible for free school meals.

Offences Against Children: Doncaster

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the Audit Commission will have access to the full serious case review into the case of Children J produced by Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board during its forthcoming inspection of Doncaster. [314489]

Dawn Primarolo: It is for the Audit Commission to determine the information it needs for the purposes of undertaking a Corporate Governance Inspection and to discuss this with the relevant local authority in each case.

Pre-school Education

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what statutory duties there are on local authorities in England to provide nursery places for three and four year olds; what remedies are available to parents in instances where a local authority fails to fulfil that duty; and if he will make a statement. [317721]

Dawn Primarolo: Section 7 of the Childcare Act 2006, together with the regulations made under it (the Local Authority [LA] (Duty to Secure Early Years Provision Free of Charge) Regulations 2008), place a duty on English local authorities to secure that early years provision is available free of charge for 12.5 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year for every child in its area for the two years prior to their reaching compulsory school age (children reach compulsory school age at the start of the next school term after they turn five). This must be available from a provider who delivers the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Statutory guidance makes clear that local authorities should put in place appeals procedures for parents who are not satisfied that their child has received their free entitlement and if a parent is not satisfied with the way in which their appeal has been conducted or believe the local authority has acted unreasonably they may make a complaint to the local authority ombudsman.

A legal challenge by way of judicial review for breach of the statutory duty could also be brought. If the court is satisfied that the LA is in breach of its duty under the Childcare Act it can order that the LA take action to remedy this.

In addition, by virtue of section 15 of the Childcare Act, a parent may also complain to the Secretary of State under section 496, 497 or 497A of the Education Act 1996. The Secretary of State has intervention powers under sections 496, 497 and 497A of the Education Act 1996, for instance to direct that the local authority discharge its statutory duty.

Pre-school Education: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places have been created in Hemsworth since 1997. [316612]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of child care places is not available for parliamentary constituencies.

Pre-school Education: Lancashire

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding streams are available for *(a)* pre-schools and *(b)* play groups in Lancashire. [321633]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* Pre-school settings and playgroups which are Ofsted registered are eligible to receive funding from their local

authority (LA) to deliver the free entitlement for three and four-year-olds to up to 12.5 hours free early learning and child care a week. This will be increased to 15 hours from September 2010. The settings may also receive funding from their LA to deliver free early years places to their most disadvantaged two-year-olds. These settings are eligible for funding from the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Capital Grant which is also distributed by local authorities, of which £642 million has been made available nationally between 2008-11 to support settings to increase access, quality and inclusion for all children.

Pre-school settings and playgroups are also eligible for funding from other smaller funding streams which are distributed by LAs in accordance with the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant and Aiming High for Disabled Children Grant: 2009-10 Memorandum of Grant, 20 February 2009.

Schools: Vetting

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what vetting and barring guidance applies to visits to schools by representatives of religious organisations; and how many such representatives have been refused access to schools in accordance with that guidance in each of the last three years. [317168]

Dawn Primarolo: The guidance on the arrangements that schools need to make in relation to visitors from different organisations is contained in 'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education'. The Department does not collect any information on how many visitors have been refused access to schools. The decision on whether or not to refuse access to a school is made at a local level by school staff and governing bodies, who are best placed to make these judgments.

Support for All: The Families and Relationships

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department allocated for the publication and distribution of the Think Fathers best practice guide referred to in the Green Paper, Support for All: the Families and Relationships in the last 12 months. [318282]

Dawn Primarolo: The funding for the new support for families as outlined in Support for All: a Families and Relationships Green Paper has been allocated from current budgets. In the last 12 months, around £25,000 has been allocated for the publication and distribution of the Think Fathers best practice guide.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has allocated for the publication and distribution of free parenting support booklets as referred to in the Green Paper, Support for All: the Families and Relationships. [318286]

Dawn Primarolo: The funding for the new support for families as outlined in Support for All: a Families and Relationships Green Paper has been allocated from current budgets.

The parenting booklet for parents of teenagers will be taken forward next financial year and consequently no money has been spent on it to date. Around £150,000 has been allocated for their publication and distribution for 2010-11.

Teachers: Complaints

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has updated its study of 2003-04 entitled Allegations Audit. [315519]

Dawn Primarolo: Similar data to these collected in the 2003-04 Allegations Audit were collected in 2004-05, and less detailed data on allegations were collected in 2007. The data collected in 2004-05 were used to inform the development of guidance on handling allegations of abuse made against those who work with children and young people, but were not published as a data set. The data collected in 2007 were used to inform the review of implementation of guidance on handling allegations. The analysis of these data were included within the report of the review published in May 2009 and is available to download from the Every Child Matters website.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for the Government Olympic Executive. [322580]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) reports to me as Minister for the Olympics through the Permanent Secretary to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Results for GOE will be included in the DCMS results for the October 2009 staff survey. This will be published on the DCMS website in April 2010 and following publication a copy will be placed in the Library.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club: Travel

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of the All England Lawn Tennis Club on the provision of transport for tennis players, officials and VIPs for the 2010 All England Tennis Championships by a company that is not licensed under the 1998 Private Hire Vehicles (London) Act 1998; and if he will make a statement. [323365]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been no such discussions with Ministers or officials in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

This is a matter for the All England Lawn Tennis Club.

Coastal Areas: Regeneration

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent progress has been made on the final round of funding for the Sea Change project; and if he will make a statement. [322498]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* The final round of Sea Change funding was announced on 16 November, with £8.8 million being allocated. This means a total of £38 million has been allocated to 32 resorts over the three waves of the programme.

Cricket: Public Participation

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who have played cricket over the last five years; [322685]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people who regularly play cricket in England. [322693]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Active People Survey commissioned by Sport England shows that 207,500 adults are taking part in at least one moderate intensity, 30 minute session of cricket each week. In addition, 428,400 people played cricket at least once a month in 2009-10.

The Active People Survey was first run in 2005-6. The number of people who have played cricket over the last five years is set out in the table.

	Number
2005-6	380,300
2007-8	419,500
2008-9	428,000
2009-10	428,400

The latest information on cricket participation can be found on the Sport England website at the following link:

http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey/active_people_surve/_4/aps4_quarter_1/idoc.ashx?docid=de15dfc8-b419-4f0f-bfd5-8adc6c53dabd&version=1

Culture: Databases

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many applications to attend his Department's Rewired Culture event on 27 March 2010 have been received; [323265]

(2) how many Rewired State events were held in 2009; how much each cost; and how many people attended each such event. [323266]

Margaret Hodge: 70 people had signed up so far for the Rewired Culture event.

Rewired State is a not for profit company. Rewired Culture is the first Rewired event that has been organised by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, although the Department was a sponsor of Young Rewired State in 2009 along with Central Office of Information, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the Chief Information Officer Council.

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department and its non-departmental bodies are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323067]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has no canteen facilities which use meat or fresh dairy products. We advise our non-departmental public bodies on best practice in food procurement, drawing on relevant guidance provided by DEFRA and the Office of Government Commerce.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322643]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's buildings are covered by CCTV and have 24 hour security guarding. Security is kept under review and the Department follows best practice on physical security set out in the Cabinet Office Security Policy Framework.

The Department will be implementing 'hot-desking' at the end of March in its main building, which will include a clear desk policy. This will provide an additional security measure to prevent thefts.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been provided for *(a)* cricket, *(b)* football and *(c)* rugby by his Department in 2009-10. [322683]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England invests in the national governing bodies of cricket, football and rugby through the Whole Sport Plans (WSP), which run for a four-year period (2009 to 2013).

The table shows the funding provided for 2009.

	2009 investment (£)
Cricket	10,545,199
Football	7,851,278
Rugby league	6,101,145
Rugby union	9,351,857

Sport England also invests £15 million Exchequer funding each year to the Football Foundation to support projects including kit, safe goalposts, all weather pitches and floodlights.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Boilers: Carbon Emissions

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the efficiency ratings are in respect of the Standard Assessment Procedure for the calculation of carbon emissions of domestic boilers using B30K oil. [322830]

Joan Ruddock: The Oil Firing Technical Association (OFTEC) commissioned efficiency trials which compared C2 kerosene, BS 2869 and B30K in the same boiler and the results are indicated in the following table. While this is a small sample, the results suggest there may be a marginal difference in efficiency from using B30K compared with kerosene alone.

Nonetheless, manufacturers of those boilers that have been modified to burn B30K have yet to submit information on boiler efficiency for inclusion in the Boiler Efficiency Database. This database is the repository of boiler efficiency information that underpins the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) and can be accessed at:

www.sedbuk.com

	Fuel	
	Kerosene	*B30K*
Output (kW)	26.2	26.4
Full load efficiency (Percentage)	97.9	97.4
Part load efficiency (Percentage)	100.2	101.4

Boilers: Government Assistance

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the operation of the boiler scrappage scheme; and if he will make a statement. [322937]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* The boiler scrappage scheme has proved popular and appears to have stimulated many people to consider replacing their boiler. We estimate that the scheme is helping householders to save around £200 a year off fuel bills and reduce emissions and sustain work for 130,000 installers and employees of the 25 UK-based boiler manufacturers.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken any research of the level of consumer awareness of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target; and if he will make a statement. [323553]

Joan Ruddock: The Government are taking a number of steps to ensure consumers are assisted in understanding the support available to them. The Government support a one-stop shop through the Energy Saving Trust which provides free advice to consumers on energy saving as well as providing easy access to the full range of Carbon Emission Reduction Target offers. This is supported by the Government's overarching Act on CO_2 marketing campaign which demonstrates the benefits of the energy saving measures offered under the Carbon Emission Reduction Target as part of coverage in national television, press, radio and online. We have recently conducted qualitative research among consumers to help deepen our understanding of attitudes, behaviours, motivations and barriers for home insulation. Longer term, we have set out our intention as part of the 'Warm Homes, Greener Homes' strategy to continue to improve and simplify consumer access to, and navigation of, energy saving information. This will combine with effective branding and marketing to build awareness and trust in the available products and services.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to the introduction of a sunset clause in the eligible measures under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target; and if he will make a statement. [323554]

Joan Ruddock: The supplier obligation (now termed the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target) has been set over three-year cycles precisely to allow Government to reflect on its successes and to evolve the scheme so that it only pulls through the most energy efficient products with the most potential to provide for household sector carbon emissions reductions. The measures eligible for each phase are subject to full public consultation. The consultation on the April 2011 to December 2012 extension of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, which concluded on 14 March 2010, specifically asked whether Government should introduce up front sunset clauses for products when they reach a certain level of market penetration. Consultation responses are now being considered.

Departmental Offices

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on office refurbishments since its inception. [320471]

Joan Ruddock: Since its inception on 3 October 2008 the Department has spent a total of £1,649,504 on refurbishments.

Departmental Sick Leave

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many working days were lost in his Department as a result of *(a)* stress and *(b)* other illnesses in 2008-09. [311572]

Joan Ruddock: The average working days lost due to illness for 2008-09 was 2.6 days. We are unable to provide a breakdown of this by category of illness for this period of time.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department. [322571]

Joan Ruddock: The DECC Employee Engagement Survey results are now available in the Library.

The results are also available on the DECC website

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/default.aspx?nl=26&n2=1138&n3=1139&preview=true

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding has been allocated to *(a)* each pay as you save pilot scheme and *(b)* the pay as you save scheme for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [322707]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have made £4 million available for the Home Energy Pay As You Save pilots. £2 million in 2009-10 and £2 million in 2010-11. The five pilot projects were announced in December 2009.

Spend profiles are based on individual pilot start-up plans. Budgets for 2010-11 are indicative only and are subject to review and first year evaluation. All figures in the Following table excludes operating costs.

		£000
Pilot Project	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
British Gas	500	500
Birmingham City Council	70	800
B & Q	400	600
Gentoo	200	200
Stroud District Council	200	300

[1] Indicative

Fuel Poverty: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of households in fuel poverty in Leeds North West constituency. [322834]

Mr. Kidney: The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were 4,200 households in the Leeds North West constituency that were classified as living in fuel poverty.

Guanidine

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of guanidine to his Department's renewable energy strategy. [323017]

Joan Ruddock: None. Guanidine is a potential chemical carrier for hydrogen—which can be used in modified internal combustion engines (ICEs), turbines or fuel cells. Guanidine is a solid at room temperature. Its advocates claim that this offers some advantages over the current methods for storing hydrogen as a compressed gas or cryogenic liquid.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 799W, on nuclear power stations: construction, whether representatives of non-governmental organisations participating in the planned forum will be reimbursed for *(a)* travel, *(b)* subsistence and *(c)* accommodation expenses; whether assistance will be provided to those representatives to cover loss of earnings consequent on attendance at the planned forum; and what budget has been allocated to support the work of the forum. [323624]

Mr. Kidney: Representatives of non-governmental organisations participating in the planned forum will be offered the following:

(a) Reasonable travel costs to be reimbursed;

(b) Subsistence payments will not be offered although suitable refreshments will be provided depending on the time of day.

(c) Accommodation expenses will not be paid. Loss of earnings will not be covered. No specific budget has been allocated. Any costs associated with the planned forum will be covered within the running costs of the Office for Nuclear Development.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department and its non-departmental bodies are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323068]

Mr. Michael Foster: All food products procured on behalf of the Department for International Development (DFID) in the UK are purchased by our catering contractors, Charlton House Catering Services. Charlton House Catering Services uses only nominated suppliers that are able to demonstrate conformity with current animal welfare legislation. They procure free range produce where possible within cost constraint and are working with Assured Food Standards to identify and promote products that qualify under the Red Tractor assurance scheme. DFID will ensure that in any future re-entering of the catering contract, due regard will be given to animal welfare standards as part of the awarding criteria.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 877W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the refresh of its website. [323567]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 806W, on Departmental Internet.

Departmental Written Questions

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323458]

Mr. Michael Foster: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Developing Countries: Disabled

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to ensure that each of his Department's country programmes record and report on their support for access to education for children with disabilities. [322718]

Mr. Michael Foster: Lack of reliable data on enrolment, attendance, achievement and completion of education by children with disabilities is an issue in most countries where the Department for International Development (DFID) provides support to education. DFID's new Education Strategy sets out our commitment to publish a new toolkit which aims to support country programmes and partners in delivering inclusive education for children with a disability. This will include working with national partners on data collection and monitoring. At an international level, progress will require working with the Global Monitoring Report (GMR) and UNESCO's Institute for Statistics (UIS).

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will support proposals for the establishment of rights for disabled people to an inclusive education at the forthcoming *(a)* (i) G8 and (ii) G20 summit in Canada and *(b)* the Millennium Development Goals Review in September 2010. [322719]

Mr. Michael Foster: Every child should have access to a good quality basic education. The Department for International Development (DFID) will continue to advocate for the education of children with disabilities in all forums, including the G8, G20 and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Review Summit. DFID recognises the importance of supporting primary aged children with disabilities to receive an education, as well as other children who have been denied access, for achieving the Millennium Development Goal.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will use the Fast Track Initiative's equity and inclusion framework when part of a donor group charged with assessing education sector plans submitted to the Fast Track Initiative. [322720]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) will support the Education for All-Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI) to ensure that countries are supported to tackle exclusion of children from education including those with a disability. DFID has been a member of the small task team of donors and civil society which has led on the production and piloting of the FTI's equity and inclusion framework. DFID's Rwanda office is currently using the framework in partnership with the national Government and we would expect to use the framework in other DFID partner countries where education sector plans are being assessed under the FTI.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will support proposals for the insertion of an indicator on disability into the Indicative Framework that guides education sector planning under the Fast Track Initiative. [322721]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department of International Development (DFID) has been one of the lead partners within the Education for All-Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI) in supporting the development of an Equity and Inclusion Tool. This will ensure that countries which are supported address the barriers to education faced by marginalised children including those with a disability. The Indicative Framework is currently under review. In the context of this review, DFID will continue stress the importance of including equity and inclusion issues.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will request *(a)* the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and *(b)* other international organisations to provide greater support for developing countries to monitor educational access for children with disabilities. [322722]

Mr. Michael Foster: Supporting developing countries to monitor children's access to education is important for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Department for International Development (DFID) is already providing financial support to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (£200,000 in 2009-10) and the UNESCO Global Monitoring Report (£300,000 in 2009-10) to collect and disseminate statistical information of children's enrolment. As part of our continuing dialogue with these and other organisations, we have advocated the need for data collection to include statistics for children with disabilities. DFID supported calls for equity-based reporting of statistics from participants to the DFID Millennium Development Goals Conference on 11 March 2010.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the toolkit on inclusive education announced in his Department's education strategy will be disseminated to *(a)* country programmes and *(b)* other development partners; and what steps he plans to take to encourage take-up of the toolkit in his Department's country programmes. [322716]

Mr. Michael Foster: The toolkit to support country programmes and partners in delivering inclusive education for children with disabilities will be finalised by the end of March and disseminated to countries over the following three months. Country offices will be encouraged to make use of the toolkit and share extensively with other development partners, through forums such as local education groups (LEG).

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects the toolkit on inclusive education announced in his Department's education strategy to be delivered. [322717]

Mr. Michael Foster: The new toolkit to support country programmes and partners in delivering inclusive education for children with disabilities will be completed by the end of March and disseminated to countries in the following three months.

Developing Countries: Tuberculosis

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure the provision of high quality healthcare services to tackle tuberculosis in the next five years. [323373]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) combats tuberculosis through our contributions to multilateral organisations such as

the World Health Organisation; partnerships like STOP TB and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM); bilateral programmes; and DFID's support for research.

DFID has pledged £1 billion from 2008 to 2015 to GFATM, which estimates that it has supported the detection and treatment of 5.4 million people with TB. In addition, we have a 20-year commitment of up to €60 million per year by 2010 to UNITAID, which by 2011 is aiming to triple access to rapid tests for multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB and reduce the price MDR-TB medicines by 25 per cent. The UK is also investing £6 billion up to 2015 to improve health systems in developing countries, essential to improving the quality, availability and accessibility of health services, particularly by the most poor and vulnerable, including those with TB.

Fiji: Storms

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance his Department is providing to Fiji following Cyclone Tomas. [323497]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £100,000 to the Fiji Red Cross to help with the immediate disaster relief efforts.

Rwanda: Politics and Government

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1416W, on Rwanda: politics and government, what representations his Department has made to ensure that full political rights, within the framework of Rwandan law, are upheld. [322684]

Mr. Thomas: Officials of the Department for International Development (DFID) are in regular contact with representatives of the Government of Rwanda regarding the registration of opposition political parties. DFID officials also work in close coordination with their Foreign and Commonwealth office (FCO) colleagues on this issue. The British high commissioner in Kigali has recently discussed the registration of political parties with the Rwandan Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Local Government. He has been assured that those parties which meet the criteria laid down in Rwandan law will be able to register.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to seek to improve the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka. [322864]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since September 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £12.5 million to the humanitarian response in Sri Lanka. Recently, we have funded impartial agencies such as the International Organisation for Migration to support the safe transportation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning from the camps to their areas of origin and United Nations operations to provide transitional shelter.

DFID has a full-time humanitarian adviser based at the British high commission in Colombo. Our adviser remains in regular contact with the Government of Sri Lanka, UN Country Team, International Committee of the Red Cross, NGOs and humanitarian donors in order to bring about an improvement in both the humanitarian situation and international response. For more information on DFID's humanitarian response please see:

www.dfid.gov.uk/srilankacrisis

Teachers: Training

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the 130,000 teachers to be trained each year under his Department's education strategy will be trained in using inclusive education methodologies. [322715]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) education strategy includes a commitment to produce a toolkit and guidance to support country programmes and partners in delivering inclusive education for children with disabilities. Ensuring teachers are trained effectively is likely to be included as one strategy to help improve the access of children with disabilities to a good quality basic education.

In Vietnam DFID has provided £243 million to the Primary Education for Disadvantaged Children (PEDC) programme, which includes a strong focus on primary education for children with disabilities. This programme includes a range of components including teacher training and professional development, along side the development of learning materials and preparation of a national strategy for Inclusive Education.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Angola: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Angola. [323370]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Bilateral relations with Angola are good. We are keen to develop a strategic partnership with this important country and work more closely on regional and international issues of mutual interest. We believe that the UK has much to contribute to Angola's economic, social and political development. Our foreign policy priorities include democracy, good governance, human rights and development. The UK has a very strong trade relationship with Angola. Combined visible trade alone was over £600 million last year. British companies have long been major investors in the oil sector, but are increasingly looking for investment partnerships in new areas such as financial services, pharmaceuticals and consumer goods. This is in line with the Angolan Government's wish to diversify the economy.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Burmese government on the publication of an election law preventing Aung San Suu Kyi from participating in the forthcoming elections in Burma. [323292]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have been no opportunities for discussions with the Burmese government since the election laws were announced. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made a statement describing the targeting of Aung San Suu Kyi and her party "vindictive and callous". He also wrote to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon referring to the forthcoming meeting of the Group of Friends to ensure a united and effective international response to the unfair terms imposed by the regime's election laws. At the Human Rights Council on 15 March, at which Burmese Government representatives were present, the Government condemned the election laws. Our Ambassador in Rangoon continues to remind the military regime at every opportunity that without the participation of ethnic groups and the democratic opposition the forthcoming elections will not be credible.

Burma: Asylum

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of recent arrests and deportation to Burma of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. [323328]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are concerned by the recent reports by Medecins Sans Frontieres and Physicians for Human Rights on the situation facing displaced Rohingyas in Bangladesh. We have raised the plight of the Rohingyas and their status with the Government of Bangladesh, both bilaterally and in concert with EU partners. Officials from our High Commission in Dhaka, including the High Commissioner, have visited the camps for displaced Rohingyas, which are run by UN agencies. We are also supporting the European Commission and UN programmes for Rohingyas through the UK's core funding to the EU and the UN.

Burma: Dams

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the forcible relocation of civilians by the Burma regime for the Myitsone dam construction in Kachin State, Burma. [323293]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are concerned about the impact of the construction of the Myitsone Dam on the environment and the human rights of local people. Officials from our embassy in Rangoon have visited the dam site on several occasions, most recently in January 2010. We understand that local people have been told to leave the area, although have so far refused to do so. Our embassy in Rangoon is supporting work to assess the social and environmental impact of this and other dam projects.

Burma: Ethnic Groups

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the mortar-bombing of a school in Karen, Burma; and if he will make a statement. [323291]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware of reports detailing State Peace and Development Council attacks on unarmed civilians that took place in February 2010, in which two people were injured and unfortunately one schoolboy was killed. We remain deeply concerned about the situation in Karen State where attacks carried out by the Burmese army and their Karen client organisations on civilians have been particularly intense over the past two years. We have repeatedly called for a halt to such offensives and called on the military regime and the Karen National Union to intensify their efforts to bring about a permanent end to the conflict.

China: Human Rights

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to promote human rights in China. [323350]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Promotion of human rights is a fundamental part of our relationship with China. Despite economic and social progress, which has raised 500 million out of poverty in just 30 years, progress in civil and political rights has been much slower with a marked deterioration in some areas. It is in our interests to help China do better in these areas through greater respect for human rights, transparency and accountability. Our approach includes high-level messaging to encourage political progress and project work to deliver concrete assistance on the ground.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised a range of human rights issues including individual cases during his recent visit to China on 15-17 March. He made clear that human rights are our basic values—and a vital part of any stable and sustainable system.

The UK/China Human rights Dialogue provides an open channel of communication with the Chinese Government about human rights concerns and allows issues to be discussed in greater depth. The latest round took place on 18-19 March.

Engaging with China on human rights requires sustained commitment. Therefore we will continue to raise human rights at every available opportunity as made clear in our public strategy for engagement with China, published in January 2009.

Conflict Resolution: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department plans to allocate additional funding for the purpose of tackling violence against women overseas consequent on the creation of the new ministerial role to which Baroness Kinnock has been appointed; whether civil service posts will be dedicated to providing support for that ministerial post; whether the Government plans to bring forward an integrated strategy for tackling violence against women overseas; and whether performance indicators will be used to assess the effectiveness of the Government's work to tackle violence against women overseas. [323168]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: On International Women's day, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced that my noble Friend Baroness Kinnock will be given responsibility for leading the Government's work to tackle violence against women overseas. This is the first time such a dedicated responsibility has existed within the Government and reflects the growing awareness of the impact of violence against women on societies around the world and its effect on our international policies towards security, the economy and development.

The appointment of Baroness Kinnock will ensure that the existing resources available for work on violence against women in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence, including staff, are effectively co-ordinated, ensuring a coherent UK approach. Baroness Kinnock will provide a high level voice on this issue, ensuring UK assistance is targeted and that opportunities are seized to share best practice. The Government have undertaken a public consultation with a view to revising the UK's National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security. We will continue to engage with civil society as this is developed. We are considering the inclusion of indicators to measure progress and are also supporting the development of international indicators at the UN level.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department and agencies have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320458]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not conducted any Real Help Now or Building Britain's Future themed campaigns.

Departmental Sick Leave

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many sick days members of his Department have taken in each month of each year since 1997. [315971]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to reducing sickness absence. The average number of days sick leave by UK staff has decreased from 8.9 days in 1997 to 3.5 days in 2009. Per capita sickness absence in the FCO has been consistently below the public sector average.

We do not keep records centrally of sick leave taken by locally-engaged staff members. This information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Data collection since 1997 has been complicated by the introduction of new Pay and management information systems. It is therefore possible that the figures given below do not reflect consistent recording methods.

Annual figures are available from 2000 and monthly figures from April 2006:

	Total number of days	*Average number of days per officer*
1997	n/a	8.9
1998	n/a	8.0
1999	n/a	n/a
2000	[1]20,900	6.3
2001	25,012	6.6
2002	27,720	4.7
2003	33,219	5.6
2004	35,969	6.2
2005	20,904	3.4
2006	19,102	3.1
2007	20,650	3.6
2008	20,267	3.6
2009	21,271	—

n/a = Not available
[1] Estimated

	Number
2006	
April	2,232
May	2,168
June	1,868
July	1,819
August	1,726
September	1,690
October	1,648
November	1,895
December	1,549
2007	
January	1,682
February	1,674
March	1,770
April	1,641
May	1,777
June	1,530
July	1,723
August	1,671
September	1,572
October	1,832
November	2,028
December	1,750
2008	
January	2,186
February	1,895
March	1,717
April	1,845
May	1,372
June	1,258
July	1,541
August	1,250
September	1,797
October	1,847
November	1,621
December	1,938
2009	
January	1,986
February	2,036
March	1,931

	Number
April	1,761
May	1,793
June	1,669
July	2,111
August	1,563
September	1,469
October	1,827
November	1,773
December	1,352
2010	
January	1,385

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [316464]

Chris Bryant: The number of staff who had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last three years was 86 out of around 5,500 UK based civil servants (this figure includes staff in FCO services). Central records of sickness leave are kept only for UK-based civil servants within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. No central records of sickness leave are kept for locally engaged staff working overseas. Contacting all overseas posts to gather this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Egypt

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the reason was for the visit of HM Ambassador in Egypt to the Egyptian Foreign Minister in Cairo in March 2003. [323270]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: On 23 March 2003, our ambassador in Cairo met the Egyptian Foreign Minister to hand over a letter from then Prime Minister, Tony Blair to President Mubarak. He also discussed UK military action in Iraq.

Ethiopia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Ethiopia. [323369]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ethiopia is one of the world's poorest countries, and a high priority for development. The UK's development programme aims to reduce poverty in Ethiopia, and to support progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Encouraging progress has been made in recent years. In financial year 2009-10, the Department for International Development has provided over £200 million. Working in partnership with the Ethiopian Government, this has been used to support humanitarian relief, help expand public services, support improvements in governance, and stimulate growth.

The development of an open, democratic political system is an important objective for UK work in Ethiopia. The British Government are working with all parties to address concerns around political space, with the aim that Ethiopian elections in May are as good as possible. The UK is concerned by aspects of the human rights situation in Ethiopia and we are working with a range of partners to address these.

The British and Ethiopian Governments collaborate on regional priorities including Sudan, all parts of Somalia, and on migration and counter-terrorism. Ethiopia is a key partner on international climate change work, and has provided an important African leadership role.

Homicide

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what services his Department provides for the families of British victims of homicides committed abroad. [323280]

Chris Bryant: We will not always know whether a specific death is due to homicide, but when a British national dies abroad, including in suspicious circumstances, when they are not already aware we will work with the UK police to inform their next of kin as soon as possible. Consular staff in London are then available to update the family on any new developments.

If the death is in suspicious circumstances we can suggest ways to raise concerns with the local authorities, offer basic information about the local police system and legal system and provide lists of local lawyers, interpreters and support groups. We will consider making appropriate representations to the local authorities if there are concerns that an investigation is not being carried out in line with local procedures or if there are justified complaints about discrimination against the person who has died or their family.

General information on how we can help families of British nationals who die abroad in suspicious circumstances is set out in our public guide "Support for British Nationals Abroad: A guide". We also publish "Guide for bereaved families" which offers more detailed information. All Foreign and Commonwealth Office publications are available on our website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/publications

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he is having with his international counterparts on Iran's nuclear ambitions and capability. [323501]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Addressing Iran's nuclear ambitions and capability is one of the UK's top foreign policy concerns, and others in the international community share this assessment. Iran must restore the international community's confidence in its nuclear programme. I discuss the issue with international counterparts regularly. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the importance of the dual track approach of engagement and pressure with Foreign Minister Yang, State Councillor Dai and Premier Wen in Beijing on 16 March.

Mexico

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the level of violence in Mexico; and how many British citizens are *(a)* in jail and *(b)* awaiting trial in Mexico. [323294]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) receives regular reporting from the British embassy on various topics including the security situation in Mexico. This reporting is based on information shared with US, EU and other partners, and from the Mexican authorities.

Even with the regrettably high levels of violence in some parts of Mexico, tackling the drugs cartels and organised crime there is vital. Most recently, Members of the House may have seen reporting in the press of a tragic incident killing three individuals related to the US Consulate in Ciudad Juarez. I am sure you will join me in offering condolences to all those affected, in addition to the messages already given by our ambassador in Mexico and by our embassy in Washington.

The FCO Travel Advice is kept under constant review in light of new information, and on 18 March this was upgraded to advise against all but essential travel to Ciudad Juarez.

There are currently no British citizens in jail or awaiting trial in Mexico.

Nigeria: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Nigeria on developments in that country since the beginning of January 2010. [323498]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed developments in Nigeria with the Nigerian Foreign Minister Chief Ojo Maduekwe on 11 February. My noble Friend Baroness Kinnock, Minister for Africa, met Chief Maduekwe during the African Union Summit in Addis at the end of January and in London in February. Our High Commissioner and senior visitors from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office also regularly discuss political developments with the Government of Nigeria.

Pakistan: Kidnapping

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Pakistan following the kidnap and release of a five year old British boy. [323500]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have had no such discussions. The operation to bring about Sahil's safe release has been an excellent example of close co-operation between UK and Pakistan law enforcement agencies. Our high commission in Islamabad have also kept in close touch with the Pakistan authorities.

Rwanda: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with the Rwandan Government freedom of political expression for members of the Green Party and other political groups in that country. [323499]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our High Commission in Kigali remains in regular contact with the full spectrum of political opinion in Rwanda, meeting regularly with political parties from both Government and Opposition, including the Green Party. We have discussed the registration of new political parties and issues surrounding political space with the relevant Ministers in the Rwandan Government, and at ministerial level between Baroness Kinnock and Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo. We also continue to engage with the Rwandan National Election Commission over the practicalities of the forthcoming August 2010 presidential elections.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UN Security Council has been briefed on the human rights situation in occupied Western Sahara by the UN Secretary General's special envoy on Western Sahara. [322786]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Western Sahara regularly briefs the Security Council on developments in the conflict of Western Sahara, including the human rights situation. The current Personal Envoy, Christopher Ross, last briefed the Security Council on 18 February. Mr. Ross holds regular discussions with members of the Security Council on a range of issues related to the conflict.

The Secretary-General will submit his report on the latest developments in Western Sahara to the Security Council in advance of the renewal of the UN Mission for the referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) mandate at the end of April.

HEALTH

Abortion

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 51W, on abortion, on what date he expects to place in the Library a copy of the information requested. [323507]

Gillian Merron: The information requested was placed in the Library on 18 March 2010.

Children: Abuse

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources his Department provides for therapeutic services for children who have experienced abuse. [322872]

Phil Hope: We are committed to ensuring that children can access appropriate support when it is needed. Keeping Children and Young People in Mind: the Government's full response to the independent review of CAMHS (child and adolescent mental health services) sets out a clear model for effective local services, together with statutory guidance for primary care trusts and local authorities. A copy has already been placed in the Library. We will also continue to support Children's Trusts to deliver quality emotional and mental health services. An independent National Advisory Council is already holding Government to account on progress.

Community Care

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with Sir David Nicholson on the merits of independent provider arms for community care. [314713]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State regularly meets officials to discuss a number of issues.

Community Health Services

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the number of options available to NHS trusts under the Transforming Community Services programme has been reduced; and if he will make a statement. [322744]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The range of options available to primary care trusts for the future provision of their community services has not been reduced. In February 2010 the Department published Transforming Community Services: The assurance and approvals process for PCT-provided community service which set out a range of options for primary care trusts (PCTs) to consider. The guidance explained that there is no prescribed form(s) and that proposals will be judged on their merits through a nationally defined assurance process.

The guidance makes clear, however, that in relation to Community Foundation Trusts the Department expects relatively few proposals to be sufficiently developed to meet the assurance tests and be deliverable within the required timeframe. Similarly, the Department expects relatively few proposals for continued direct provision to meet the assurance requirements sufficiently, by demonstrating that they are partnered with strong commissioning and will not detract from the PCTs core role as a commissioner.

Transforming Community Services: The assurance and approvals process for PCT-provided community service has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_112147

Dental Services: Chesterfield

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists were practising in Chesterfield constituency on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of them were accepting new NHS *(a)* adult and *(b)* child patients on that date. [323290]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested, however the number of dentists with national health service activity in Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT), which covers the Chesterfield constituency, for year ending 31 March 2009, was 364.

The number of adult patients seen by an NHS dentist in Derbyshire County PCT for the period 1 April-30 June 2009, was 268,162. The number of children seen for the same period was 98,386.

Note:

Patients seen are allocated to PCT via the dentist which they attend for treatment and not by the home postcode of the patient. Most patients will live within the PCT/strategic health authority in which they receive primary care dental services but some will attend a dentist further a field (near their place of employment, for example).

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care.

Direct Payments

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in circumstances in which an individual lacks the capacity to choose to receive a direct payment for social care and that payment is made to a suitable person, who his Department deems to be the owner of the sum paid. [323355]

Phil Hope: The sum paid in the form of a direct payment is paid to the suitable person who will receive payment on behalf of the person who lacks capacity. The suitable person holds those monies in trust for the person lacking capacity. The person lacking capacity is the beneficiary.

The suitable person will be responsible for managing the direct payments and buy services to meet the needs of the individual. However, councils also have a duty to set up financial monitoring arrangements for audit purposes to ensure that the person's needs are being met and that the finances are properly managed.

Disabled: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether people in receipt of attendance allowance or disability living allowance will receive the full social care entitlement under the Government's proposed reforms of the social care system. [307720]

Phil Hope: If disability benefits for older people are reformed as part of the National Care Service, those receiving the affected benefits at the time of reform would continue to receive the same level of cash support. We will give more details about the National Care Service offer in our White Paper later this year.

Food: Health Hazards

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with representatives of the food industry on the effects of the provision of information on the (i) salt, (ii) sugar and (iii) fat content of foods on the ability of people to manage their (A) diabetes, (B) heart disease, (C) stroke, (D) obesity and (E) other chronic medical conditions; what recent representations he has received on those matters; and if he will make a statement. [323140]

Gillian Merron: The Department and Food Standards Agency (FSA) officials have regular and ongoing discussions with a wide range of stakeholders within the food industry about the provision of nutritional information for fat, saturated fat, sugar and salt both on front and back of pack.

Front of pack (FOP) labelling responds to United Kingdom consumer's desire for clear, simple, honest nutrition information and it is widely accepted that FOP labelling is a useful initiative which is valued by consumers in terms of making it easier to make healthier choices when shopping. Research and feedback from consumers has indicated that FOP labelling is often used by those with health and medical conditions such as those listed, to inform purchasing decisions.

The FSA has developed a framework to strengthen UK FOP arrangements and develop a mechanism by which a single effective approach to FOP labelling which assists consumers to make healthier choices can be delivered.

Food: Marketing

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who represents his Department at World Health Organisation discussions on the marketing of food to children; and what recent discussions he has had on that matter with *(a)* food, advertising and marketing industry representatives and *(b)* others; [323113]

(2) what recent discussions he has had on his Department's policy on marketing restrictions as part of discussions within the World Health Organisation on food marketing to children. [323218]

Gillian Merron: The chief medical officer represents the UK Departments of Health at the WHO Executive Board and the World Health Assembly at which the issue of food marketing to children has been discussed. In addition, officials are involved in discussions with WHO Europe on the same topic and have regular discussions with a range of stakeholders including representatives of the food advertising and marketing industries.

Genito-urinary Medicine: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the new Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Dataset will capture data from *(a)* general practitioners, *(b)* community contraceptive clinics and *(c)* other care settings. [323353]

Gillian Merron: The Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Dataset (SRHAD) has been developed to replace the aggregate KT31 Central Return, which currently provides limited aggregate information on contraception from sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. SRHAD will capture data from all SRH services (formerly known as family planning clinics/community contraceptive clinics) who collect the KT31 data and report them to the NHS Information Centre.

Currently general practitioners and other care settings are not required to capture data for SRHAD. Inclusion of these services within the data standard is being considered for the future.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to collect data from the NHS on *(a)* the training received by professionals delivering sexual and reproductive health services and *(b)* the number of professionals accredited to fit long-acting reversible contraceptives. [323354]

Gillian Merron: The Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Dataset (SRHAD) has been developed to capture the services being provided to those attending sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. Neither the SRHAD or the KT31 Central Return (which SRHAD replaces) records information on staffing or training within SRH services.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when his Department plans to replace the KT31 form with the new Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity dataset; [323379]

(2) when the implementation of the new Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Dataset will begin. [323380]

Gillian Merron: The Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Dataset (SRHAD) should be implemented from 1 April 2010. However, it is recognised that information technology (IT) systems within sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services will need to be developed and/or reconfigured to enable SRHAD to be collected and reported as required. SRH providers are encouraged to submit SRHAD returns as soon as possible starting from 1 April 2010. However, for sites requiring time to develop IT systems to collect SRHAD they will continue to submit an annual KT31. KT31 will be retired once all SRH sites are able to submit SRHAD, which is anticipated to be achieved by the end of the year 2011-12.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what data items will be collected under the new Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Dataset; [323381]

(2) whether the new Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Dataset will include data on removals of long-acting reversible contraceptives. [323382]

Gillian Merron: Removal of long-acting reversible contraceptives will be recorded in the Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Dataset (SRHAD) under the SRH Care Activity data item. A list of all of the data items included in SRHAD has been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Greater London

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of patients who used maternity services in London North West district in each of the last five years. [322442]

Ann Keen: Information is not held in the format requested. Information is available on the number of finished consultant delivery episodes at individual national health service health care providers.

The NHS trusts in London north west with a maternity department in at least one of their sites are: Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust; Ealing Hospital NHS Trust; West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust; Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust; Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust; North West London Hospitals NHS Trust; and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.

The information is shown in the following table.

Count of finished consultant delivery episodes at selected NHS health care providers, in the years 2004-05 to 2008-09 NHS Hospitals, England

NHS healthcare provider	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	3,304	3,513	3,843	4,191	4,084
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	2,788	2,924	2,680	2,973	3,016
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	3,396	3,375	2,015	3,782	3,924
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4,572	4,847	6,004	5,208	5,336
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	0	0	0	*	*
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	5,159	4,923	4,791	5,368	4,952
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	9,338	9,693
St. Mary's NHS Trust	4,204	4,438	4,390	n/a	n/a
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	4,580	4,776	4,783	n/a	n/a
Total	28,003	28,796	28,506	*	*

Notes:
1. A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which the FCE finishes. The episode types used for deliveries are "delivery episode" and "other delivery event".
2. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures that may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer included in admitted patient HES data.
3. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
4 Small numbers: To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was still possible to identify numbers from the total an additional number (the next smallest) has been replaced. In this case it has not been possible to suppress an additional number as all others have been published. For this reason the total has been suppressed so that the value of the replaced figure cannot be calculated.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Health Services: Isle of Man

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the reciprocal health agreement between the UK and the Isle of Man has been placed on the agenda of the forthcoming Ministerial meeting of the British-Irish Council; and if he will make a statement. [323009]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not sought to place the reciprocal health agreement between the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the British Irish Council.

Health Services: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the care and support of people with learning difficulties on Merseyside in each year since 2005. [322634]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available in the format required. However, information on programme budgeting estimated expenditure on Merseyside primary care trusts' (PCT) own populations for learning disabilities is shown in the following table:

Estimated expenditure on own population on learning disabilities

£000

PCT name	*2004-5*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Halton and St. Helens PCT	7,157	9,042	10,777	16,066	17,103
Knowsley PCT	6,219	7,405	1,892	13,137	4,832
Liverpool PCT	33,158	20,629	24,011	24,552	26,043
Sefton PCT	5,528	10,582	7,723	9,111	12,069
Wirral PCT	14,415	15,849	11,724	18,038	21,189

Notes:
1. In order to improve data quality, continual refinements have been made to the programme budgeting data calculation methodology since the first collection in 2003-04. The underlying data which support programme budgeting data are also subject to yearly changes. Caution is therefore advised when using programme budgeting data to draw conclusions on changes in PCT spending patterns between years.
2. Figures include expenditure across all sectors. Disease specific expenditure do not include expenditure on prevention, or general practitioner expenditure, but do include prescribing expenditure.
Source:
Annual PCT programme budgeting financial returns

Hospital Beds: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds were available in NHS hospitals in Salford in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the last 12 months for which figures are available. [322407]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table:

	1997-98	*Total 2008-09*
Beds in wards open overnight		
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	833	808
Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	--	623
Salford Primary Care Trust	--	53
Day only beds		
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	40	51

Notes:
1. The Salford Hospitals Trust gained foundation trust status on 1 August 2006 when it became known as the Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust.
2. The Bolton, Salford and Trafford Mental Health NHS Trust did not exist in 1997-98. However, it achieved foundation trust status on 1 February 2008 when it became known as the Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care – KH03 beds census

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for an appointment in hospital was after referral by a general practitioner for suspected cancer cases in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [322486]

Ann Keen: Statistics on average waiting times between urgent referral for suspected cancer and being seen by a specialist are not collected centrally. The two week wait for all cancers was introduced from 2000. From this date forward, all patients urgently referred for suspected cancer by their general practitioner could expect to be seen by a specialist within 14 days of referral. The following table details the numbers of patients covered by this standard and the reported performance for the period April 2005 to December 2008:

Period (where referral was received within 24 hours)	*Total seen*	*Number of patients seen within 14 days*	*Percentage performance*
Q1 2005-06	134,813	134,246	99.6
Q2 2005-06	137,471	136,932	99.6
Q3 2005-06	133,328	133,122	99.8
Q4 2005-06	134,828	134,688	99.9
Q1 2006-07	145,460	145,319	99.9
Q2 2006-07	151,546	151,392	99.9
Q3 2006-07	155,256	155,126	99.9
Q4 2006-07	152,392	152,243	99.9
Q1 2007-08	157,615	157,445	99.9
Q2 2007-08	163,756	163,587	99.9
Q3 2007-08	168,376	168,230	99.9
Q4 2007-08	164,612	164,326	99.8
Q1 2008-09	186,364	186,120	99.9
Q2 2008-09	189,397	188,832	99.7
Q3 2008-09	186,206	185,924	99.8

From 1 January 2009 onwards the definitions and methodology used to calculate these statistics are no longer directly comparable to those used previously. This change means that the national health service no longer adjusts these data to separate referrals after 24 hours or account for the impact of patient choice, where individuals elect to delay their appointment. Statistics for the period January 2009 to December 2009 are included as follows:

Period	*Total seen*	*Number of patients seen within 14 days*	*Percentage performance*
Q4 2008-09	191,508	181,038	94.5
Q1 2009-10	221,364	208,265	94.1
Q2 2009-10	229,101	216,177	94.4
Q3 2009-10	228,272	218,174	95.6

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average NHS waiting times for residents of *(a)* Manchester, Blackley and *(b)* the City of Manchester were in each of the last five years. [323016]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not collected in the format requested. The information that is available is shown in the following tables.

Average (median) waiting times for first out-patient appointment (weeks)—patients still waiting at month end, time periods 2006-10 (commissioner based)

Primary care trust (PCT)	*Position at month end*	*Median (weeks)*
South Manchester	March 2006	3.7
Central Manchester	March 2006	3.9
North Manchester	March 2006	3.8
Manchester PCT	March 2007	3.2
Manchester PCT	March 2008	2.7
Manchester PCT	March 2009	2.2
Manchester PCT	January 2010	2.4

Notes:
1. PCT mergers took place in 2006. Figures are shown for organisations that existed at the time.
2. Out-patient waiting times are measured from referral by the general practitioner to first outpatient appointment to the consultant.
3. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for their first out-patient appointment at the end of the period stated.
4. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

Source:
Department Waiting List Collections (QM08R and MMRCOM)

Average (median) in-patient waiting times for elective admission (weeks)—patients still waiting at month end, time periods 2006-10 (commissioner based)

PCT	Position at month end	Median (weeks)
South Manchester	March 2006	5.4
Central Manchester	March 2006	4.8
North Manchester	March 2006	6.0
Manchester PCT	March 2007	5.8
Manchester PCT	March 2008	4.9
Manchester PCT	March 2009	3.9
Manchester PCT	January 2010	5.3

Notes:
1. PCT mergers took place in 2006. Figures are shown for organisations that existed at the time.
2. In-patient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
3. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated.
4. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

Source:
Department Waiting List Collections QF01 and MMRCOM

Average (median) waiting times from referral to treatment (weeks)—patients seen within each month, time periods 2006-10 (commissioner based)

PCT	Position at month end	Median (weeks)—admitted patients	Median (weeks)—non-admitted patients
Manchester PCT	March 2007	19.5	–
Manchester PCT	March 2008	8.1	4.1
Manchester PCT	March 2009	7.9	3.1
Manchester PCT	December 2009	7.9	3.7

Notes:
1. Waiting times are for patients treated during the month and are from referral to first definitive treatment.
2. Data for non-admitted patients were first published in August 2007.
3. Admitted data are on an unadjusted basis for March 2007 and adjusted thereafter.
4. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

Source:
Department Monthly RTT Return

Mental Health Services: Advocacy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 351W, on mental health services: advocacy, whether he plans to make public the information being collected by the Care Quality Commission on the availability of independent mental health advocates in hospitals which detain patients under the Mental Health Act 1983; and if he will issue guidance to the Care Quality Commission requiring the inclusion of information on the availability and accessibility of independent mental health advocates in annual statements for establishments registered to take detained patients under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983. [323224]

Phil Hope: It is for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to decide whether or not to publish this information. The CQC has informed us that it will publish the results of its survey of independent mental health advocacy services and that it hopes to do so in an annual report which will be laid before Parliament later this year.

Mental Health Services: Expenditure

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the NHS has spent on *(a)* mental illness, *(b)* personality disorder, *(c)* learning disability, *(d)* brain injury and *(e)* step-down rehabilitation services provided by partnerships in care in each of the last three years; [323018]

(2) for what reasons the NHS sub-contracts mental health and psychiatric services to Partnerships in Care; and what recent assessment he has made of the effect on NHS expenditure of that practice. [323019]

Phil Hope: The provision of local health services, and the funding thereof, are decisions that should be made by primary care trusts and their strategic health authorities. Clinicians are best placed to decide on what services their local communities need and how they are provided. Information is not held centrally on local contracts with individual providers of care.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to the provision of cognitive behavioural therapy in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [323120]

Phil Hope: Prior to the inception of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme in 2008, no central information was collected about the funding of cognitive behavioural therapy in the national health service. Consequently, the Department on has figures for the period 2008-09 onwards.

The IAPT programme has begun to roll out services in all primary care trusts (PCTs) across England over a three-year period. In years one and two (2008-09 and 2009-10) growth money has been allocated centrally to PCTs that have demonstrated, through the submission of clear delivery plans, that they are ready to run an IAPT service.

In 2008-09 £33 million was allocated to this programme and in 2009-10 an additional £103 million was allocated across England, in 2010-11 £173 million will be allocated.

In Essex, four PCTs have established IAPT services and a total of £681,000 was allocated in year one and a further £1,620,000 was allocated in year two.

The PCT covering Southend is South East Essex PCT which established an IAPT service in October 2009 following the allocation of £517,000 of funding.

Muscular Dystrophy: West Midlands

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average age of death was for people diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy who died in the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area in the last 12 months. [322490]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average age of mortality was for people diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy in the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area in the last 12 months. (322490)

The information collected at death registration provides statistics on deaths which were caused by specific conditions, or to which specific conditions were known to have contributed. It is not possible to obtain from these mortality statistics any information about all persons diagnosed with, or receiving treatment for, a specific condition.

Internationally accepted guidance from the World Health Organisation requires only those conditions that contributed directly to the death to be recorded on the death certificate. Medical practitioners and coroners are not supposed to record all of the diseases or conditions present at or before death, and whether a condition contributed is a matter for their clinical judgement.

Deaths are coded to an underlying cause of death using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The codes in ICD-10 do not allow the identification of deaths specifically with a cause of Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The figure given below is therefore based on deaths from all types of muscular dystrophy, including Duchenne.

The average (mean) age at death for people with an underlying cause of death of muscular dystrophy[1] in West Midlands strategic health authority was 48 years in 2008 (the latest year available)[2, 3].

[1] Deaths were identified using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code G71.0.

[2] Based on boundaries as of February 2010.

[3] Figures are based on deaths registered in 2008.

Neuromuscular Services: West Midlands

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with representatives of the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority on access to specialist care for people in that region diagnosed with a rare neuromuscular condition. [322491]

Ann Keen: No such discussions have been held with the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority on access to specialist care for people in the West Midlands region.

The number of patients in the West Midlands diagnosed with muscular dystrophy and related neuromuscular conditions is approximately 5,000.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure the provision of services for neuromuscular dystrophy patients in that region, including access to national health service funded muscular dystrophy care advisers.

NHS: Foreign Workers

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the effects on the number of jobs in the NHS of the outsourcing of finance departments to SBS Solutions in India. [323025]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not hold data on the number of jobs in the national health service that are released when finance and accounting functions are outsourced to NHS Shared Business Services (NHS SBS). It is the responsibility of each trust when moving these functions to NHS SBS to determine the number of posts required following outsourcing.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many private recruitment agencies recruited health workers from Africa for work in the NHS prior to the introduction of the NHS Code of Practice on International Recruitment; how many have done so since its introduction; and if he will make a statement; [323319]

(2) how many health workers from Africa were employed in the NHS immediately prior to the introduction of the NHS Code of Practice on International Recruitment; how many have been so employed since its introduction; and if he will make a statement; [323320]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* enforce compliance with the NHS Code of Practice on International Recruitment; and if he will make a statement. [323321]

Ann Keen: There is no centrally held information on the country of origin of health-workers.

It is not known how many agencies have recruited specifically from Africa since 2001. The number of British private recruitment agencies registered with the NHS Code of Practice in August 2005, when records began, was 256 this rose to 531 in January 2010.

NHS Employers is responsible for the management, promotion, advice and guidance on international recruitment.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the take-up rate has been for swine influenza vaccinations by each qualifying group in each of the last six months. [323080]

Gillian Merron: Cumulative, provisional data on the uptake of swine influenza vaccine each month since the beginning of the vaccination programme (October 2009) are given in the following tables for those in the usual seasonal influenza clinical risk groups, pregnant women, healthy children aged six months to below five years and front line healthcare workers. Healthcare worker data are collected weekly, so data to the end of the closest week to the end of each month are given in table 2.

There are no data available on the uptake of swine influenza vaccine by household contacts of the immunocompromised and frontline social care workers—the other groups identified to receive swine flu vaccine.

The data show uptake of at least one dose of swine influenza vaccine—most people only require one dose of vaccine.

Table 1

Percentage

	Uptake by those in clinical risk groups aged under 65 years (including pregnant women)	*Uptake by those in clinical risk groups aged 65 years and older*	*Uptake by pregnant women*	*Uptake by healthy children aged six months to under five years*
October	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
November	18.7	9.9	9.1	1.0
December	31.7	27.2	15.1	2.9
January	34.8	36.2	15.7	13.5
February	35.7	40.0	15.8	21.1

Table 2

	Uptake by frontline health care workers (percentage)
Week 45 (end 8 November 2009)[1]	15.3
Week 48 (end 29 November 2009)	27.1
Week 52 (end 27 December 2009)	38.0
Week 4 (end 31 January 2010)	39.4
Week 8 (end 28 February 2010)	39.9

[1] The earliest data available

Thromboembolism: Health Services

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated to the Venous Thromboembolism Exemplar Network in each of the last three years. [322533]

Ann Keen: No funding has been allocated directly to the Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Exemplar Network. The aim is to mainstream good practice on VTE within the national health service, and the network demonstrates what a number of NHS organisations have achieved.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding has been allocated to the National Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Strategy in each of the last five years, excluding funding allocated to the National VTE Commissioning for Quality and Innovation goal; [322534]

(2) how much funding has been allocated to the *(a)* Healthcare Acquired Infection Reduction Strategy, *(b)* National Venous Thromboembolism Strategy and *(c)* National Cervical Cancer Vaccination Programme in each of the last five years. [322545]

Ann Keen: The amounts of funding for the areas requested are as follows.

The following table represents funding from the Department and its arm's length bodies on the Healthcare Acquired Infection Reduction Strategy. Other organisations have had a role in tackling HCAIs but their expenditure could not be separately identified. For a more detailed breakdown of these costs, please see sections 15 and 16 (p.31-36) of the National Audit Office Report, which can be found at:

www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/reducing_healthcare_associated.aspx

	£ million
2004-05	6.5
2005-06	7
2006-07	9
2007-08	10
2008-09	24.5
Total	57

Source:
National Audit Office (NAO) report: Reducing Healthcare Associated Infections in Hospitals in England—12 June 2009.

The following table shows funding for venous thromboembolism (VTE) prevention strategy for the past five years and the current financial year. These figures do not include any of the funding related to the national VTE Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) goal. Prior to 2007 the funding of VTE prevention work was limited to expenses for the VTE Expert Working Group members and other related domestic costs for hosting meetings.

	£
2004-05	n/a
2005-06	n/a
2006-07	n/a
2007-08	93,500
2008-09	125,936
2009-10	192,764
Total	412,200

A national vaccination programme against human papillomavirus, which causes cervical cancer, began in September 2008. The Department has allocated funds to PCTs for the implementation of the programme. The funding levels (which do not include the cost of the vaccines as this is commercially confidential), which varied by year depending on the number of catch-up cohorts that the vaccine was offered to, were as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	n/a
2005-06	n/a
2006-07	n/a
2007-08	n/a
2008-09	18.9
Total	18.9

	Current and future funding (£ million)
2009-10	42
2010-11	9.2
Total	52.1

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the implementation of the Venous Thromboembolism National Commissioning Goal to *(a)* strategic health authority managers, *(b)* primary care trust managers, *(c)* acute trust managers and *(d)* other healthcare professionals. [322536]

Ann Keen: The following guidance and support has been made available on the implementation of the Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) National Commissioning Goal within the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) payment framework:

Details of the national CQUIN goal on VTE risk assessment for 2010-11 were included within published guidance on the CQUIN payment framework in December 2009.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_091443

Draft guidance on data collection was put onto UNIFY on 26 January 2010 for UNIFY users.

Some basic information on VTE and CQUIN has been put on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/BloodsafetyVenousThromboembolismVTE/DH_113359

Inquiries on the VTE goal within CQUIN from staff in the national health service are being answered individually by the Department and the queries that come up regularly will also be used to form a Frequently Asked Questions section in guidance currently being prepared.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to NHS healthcare professionals on the revised 2010 National Venous Thromboembolism Risk Assessment Model on 2 March 2010; and if he will make a statement. [322537]

Ann Keen: The Department's venous thromboembolism (VTE) risk assessment template was revised in February 2010 in conjunction with the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) to ensure it was fully compliant with the guidance issued by NICE in January 2010. This then became a National VTE Risk Assessment Tool for hospitals to use. To raise awareness about the risk assessment, information has been put on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/BloodsafetyVenousThromboembolismVTE/DH_113359

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the role of the National Patient Safety Agency will be under the National Venous Thromboembolism Prevention Strategy. [322538]

Ann Keen: The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) have been key stakeholders and supportive of the work on preventing venous thromboembolism (VTE) from the outset. As we move into implementation of VTE prevention, appropriate opportunities for greater involvement of NPSA are now emerging.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were diagnosed with *(a)* deep vein and *(b)* pulmonary thrombosis in each of the last five years. [322543]

Ann Keen: Information on admitted patients in hospital who have a diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or pulmonary embolism (PE) is shown in the following table—Patients treated by their general practitioner or as out-patients are not included.

Counts of finished consultant episodes[1] with a main or secondary diagnosis[2] of DVT and PE, 2004-05 to 2008-09, England[3]

	Finished consultant episodes by diagnosis[4]		
	DVT[5]		*PE[6]*
	All relevant ICD codes	*ICD10 I80.2*	
2008-09	62,066	46,786	56,029
2007-08	61,050	46,031	49,114
2006-07	61,459	46,257	46,685
2005-06	63,373	48,952	43,360
2004-05	59,695	46,303	40,059

[1] A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] The information is the number of episodes where this diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2004-05 to 2006-07) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

[3] Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

[4] Counts for the different diagnoses shown are not necessarily mutually exclusive and therefore summing the different diagnoses is not possible (e.g. a patient may have a DVT and a PE in a single episode, and would be counted once in each relevant column—double counting would occur if the values were summed).

[5] Diagnosis is recorded in HES using ICD10 codes. ICD10 code I80.2 is used for a diagnosis of DVT where there is no further information on the site of the thrombosis. However DVT may also be recorded under a number of different codes, although these codes may also include cases which are not considered deep. The full list of relevant ICD10 codes is as follows:

I80.0 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of lower extremities
I80.1 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of femoral vein
I80.2 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other deep vessels of lower extremities
I80.3 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of lower extremities, unspecified
I80.8 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other sites
I80.9 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified site
O22.2 Superficial thrombophlebitis in pregnancy
O22.3 Deep phlebothrombosis in pregnancy
O87.0 Superficial thrombophlebitis in the puerperium
O87.1 Deep phlebothrombosis in the puerperium

[6] Pulmonary embolisms are coded as 126.0 (Pulmonary embolism with mention of acute cor pulmonale) and 126.9 (Pulmonary embolism without mention of acute cor pulmonale).

Note:
Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer included in admitted patient HES data.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the role of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges will be in relation to the National Venous Thromboembolism Strategy. [322553]

Ann Keen: At a joint meeting of the Department, Academy of Royal Colleges and Strategic Health Authority Medical Directors in October 2009, it was agreed to work together on tackling venous thromboembolism prevention through professional leadership provided by the Academy coupled with national health service system levers. The Academy confirmed their commitment to provide the necessary leadership in November 2009.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 717W, on thrombosis, what format of the electronic version of the National Venous Thromboembolism Risk Assessment Model will take; and if he will make a statement. [322659]

Ann Keen: Work to develop a prototype venous thromboembolism (VTE) risk assessment tool is ongoing. A prototype tool is being piloted at three national health service secondary care locations. The pilot work is aimed at testing the utility of a VTE risk assessment checklist on mobile and hand-held digital equipment.

When complete we will consider the contribution of this pilot work with the context of overall VTE prevention programme.

Tuberculosis: Health Services

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to assist hard to reach groups, including those from black and minority ethnic communities and people who are homeless, to access medical services for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. [323420]

Gillian Merron: The Department is funding a United Kingdom charity, TB Alert, to provide awareness raising messages for groups vulnerable to tuberculosis (TB), including black and minority ethnic communities, to increase referrals for TB testing and treatment.

The Department also funds the Find & Treat (F&T) programme in London, to work alongside local TB services. The F&T team are providing support to homeless people in accessing medical services for the prevention and treatment of TB. F&T have provided help to over 400 people with TB to complete their treatment.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she plans to answer question 310346, on Lord Sugar of Clapton, tabled on 7 January 2010. [322104]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 995-96W.

CABINET OFFICE

Deaths: Ovarian Cancer

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many women died of ovarian cancer in Merseyside in each year since 1997. [322630]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many women died of ovarian cancer in Merseyside in each year since 1997. (322630)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where ovarian cancer was the underlying cause of death, for women in Merseyside metropolitan county from 1997 to 2008 (latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where ovarian cancer[1] was the underlying cause of death in females, Merseyside[2], 1997-2008[3]

	Females Deaths
1997	87
1998	112
1999	102
2000	108
2001	119
2002	95
2003	120
2004	114
2005	111
2006	103
2007	106
2008	117

[1] Cause of death for ovarian cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 183.0 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C56 from 2001 onwards. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Based on boundaries as of February 2010.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Deaths: Thrombosis

John Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many death certificates which mentioned thrombosis have been issued in each of the last five years. [322541]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority., I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many death certificates which mentioned thrombosis have been issued in each of the last five years. (322541)

Internationally accepted guidance from the World Health Organisation requires only those conditions that contributed directly to death to be recorded on the death certificate. Medical practitioners and coroners are not supposed to record all of the diseases or conditions present at or before death. Whether a condition contributed is a matter for their clinical judgement.

The table attached provides the number of deaths where the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes recorded indicate whether any of the following conditions were mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor, in England and Wales, for 2004 to 2008 (the latest year available).

(a) Myocardial infarction and coronary thrombosis

(b) Thrombotic strokes

(c) Pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis

(d) Arterial embolism and thrombosis

It is not possible from death certificate data to separate thrombotic, embolic and atherosclerotic conditions affecting the arteries to the brain. Atherosclerosis of arteries in the neck and inside the skull can lead to strokes through thrombosis, embolism or sometimes haemorrhage. The table therefore includes a single category of deaths with mention of one or more ICD codes in the range that includes thrombotic, embolic and atherosclerotic cerebrovascular diseases. Pulmonary embolism and venous thrombosis have been combined, because when one is part of the sequence leading to death, the other nearly always is as well, whether it is mentioned on the certificate or not.

When interpreting the data in these tables, it is important to be aware that some deaths may have more than one of the requested conditions mentioned. Therefore, some deaths may be counted in more than one of the causes listed.

Table 1. Deaths where thrombosis was mentioned on the death certificate,[1] England and Wales,[2] 2004-08[3]

					Deaths (persons)
Cause	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Myocardial infarction and coronary thrombosis	44,283	41,446	38,159	36,152	34,159
Thrombotic strokes	505	457	385	301	290
Pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis	12,387	12,254	12,683	12,347	12,611
Arterial embolism and thrombosis	517	518	517	501	537

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised in Table 1, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following box. Deaths were included where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. Causes of death codes used—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Myocardial infarction and coronary thrombosis	I21-I24.0
Thrombotic Strokes	I63.0, I63.3, I63.6, I65-I66
Pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis	I80.1-I80.3, I80.9, I82.9, I26.0, I26.9
Arterial embolism and thrombosis	I74

Employment: Graduates

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many university graduates with a degree in *(a)* law, *(b)* engineering, *(c)* mathematics and *(d)* medicine have been in employment at any time since 2005. [322433]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply. The letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Public Sector Debt

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of net *(a)* borrowing and *(b)* debt, including financial sector interventions, public sector pensions liabilities, private finance initiative liabilities, Network Rail liabilities, nuclear decommissioning liabilities and loans to banks, expressed as a percentage of gross domestic product in each year from 2008-09 to 2014-15. [323022]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Unemployment: Glenrothes

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the level of unemployment in Glenrothes constituency was in each year since 1997. [322402]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the level of unemployment in Glenrothes constituency was in each year since 1997. (322402)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, due to small sample sizes estimates of unemployment for the Glenrothes constituency are unavailable.

As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for the Glenrothes constituency for January 2010 and January of each year since 2005. Figures prior to this date are unavailable as Glenrothes only became a parliamentary constituency in the 2005 General Election.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1. Number of persons resident in Glenrothes parliamentary constituency claiming jobseeker's allowance

As at January each year	*Number*
2005	2,639
2006	2,616
2007	2,348
2008	1,922
2009	2,777
2010	3,322

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Rural Land Registry on the accuracy of the maps used to calculate acreage for payment purposes; and if he will make a statement. [321976]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I either meet, or discuss with the chief executive of the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) almost weekly to discuss agency progress on a range of issues including the Rural Land Register (RLR).

The RLR Mapping Update exercise currently in progress uses the most recent Ordnance Survey (OS) data available in conjunction with aerial photography to update the RLR maps. This includes improving the positional accuracy of our map data and reflecting any real world change and ineligible land recorded by OS and farmers. The acreage for each field is calculated in hectares after the farmer has agreed the boundaries and declared any further land which is ineligible for the SPS payment.

As of 12 March 2010, approximately half of the 107,000 farmers who were sent maps as part of the RLR Mapping Update had agreed with their maps and the remaining half had requested changes to be made. RPA has now completed the request and sent confirmatory maps to over 72 per cent. of these farmers. Of these, only 3 per cent. have requested further changes to be made, many of which are new and have not been requested previously.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it is his policy to support *(a)* the provision of direct payments to farmers under Pillar One of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and *(b)* a CAP budget of at least equivalent monetary value following reforms of the CAP with effect from 2013. [322853]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* The UK Government's position on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was set out in the joint DEFRA/Treasury CAP Vision published in 2005. We want to see the elimination of all Direct Payments under Pillar I of the CAP. Direct Payments are an expensive and inefficient mechanism and undermine the ability of farmers to be truly competitive. They do not help farmers to tackle the challenges of the future and our policy is therefore to see them phased out by a carefully managed transition by 2015-20. A sustainable CAP would comprise of EU spending on agriculture that would be based on the current Pillar II, allowing a considerable reduction in total spending by the EU on agriculture and bringing this into line with other sectors.

Animals: Smuggling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* country of export and *(b)* purpose of importation was of each importation of a species listed in the convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauner and flora imported from outside the EU in each of the last three years. [322597]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information available regarding the country of export and purpose of import for CITES listed species imported into the UK from outside the EU in each of the last three years has been placed in the Libraries of the House. The information given is for imports of live specimens of animals and plants.

Auditory Bird Scarers

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has plans to review the Code of Practice for farmers on the use of auditory bird scarers. [323435]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The National Farmers Union produced the code of practice on auditory bird scarers on which the Department was consulted. DEFRA do not currently have plans to carry out further research into the issue of auditory bird scarers.

Biodiversity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on biodiversity conservation in *(a)* England and *(b)* the UK Overseas Territories in each of the last five years. [322616]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Details of expenditure on biodiversity conservation in England are provided in the following table. These figures represent DEFRA programme spend and spend by the wider DEFRA network but do not include staff costs. They also include total agri-environment scheme expenditure, of which a major share is judged to be spent on biodiversity.

Estimated public expenditure by DEFRA network organisations on biodiversity conservation in England (figures are given in £ million)

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
DEFRA: Agri-environment schemes	167.8	187.2	254.6	330.4	353
Other DEFRA programme expenditure	4.9	5.6	5.4	4.7	6.7
Environment Agency	5.9	10.5	11.6	7.3	23.5
Forestry Commission	14.7	17.7	22.8	28.1	33.3
Natural England	55.5	57.3	54.1	52.7	50.4
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	1.4	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.7
DEFRA network total	250.3	280.2	350.4	425.3	468.6

Note:
Totals may not add due to rounding

Details of spending commitments on biodiversity conservation in the UK Overseas Territories are provided in the following table. These include commitments under the Darwin Initiative and other additional support for projects to address invasive non-native species, in each of the last five financial years. They also include spend by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. They do not include spend by others, for example the Governments of the Overseas Territories themselves, who are principally responsible for biodiversity conservation in their territories.

	£
2004-05	125,840
2005-06	226,970
2006-07	211,130
2007-08	152,379
2008-09	178,527

In addition, DEFRA spent approximately £19,000 and £10,000 on biodiversity conservation in the UK Overseas Territories through the Flagship Species Fund in the calendar years 2005 and 2008 respectively.

Biofuels

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what sustainability criteria will apply to the use of B30K oil in domestic boilers. [322831]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Renewable Energy Directive, published in 2009, includes sustainability criteria that bioliquids used for heat and electricity generation must meet in order to receive financial support and to count towards the directive's renewable energy targets. The criteria include a requirement for a minimum greenhouse gas savings threshold of 35 per cent., rising to 50 per

cent. in 2017, and 60 per cent. in 2018 for new installations starting production from 2017; and controls over land use change to protect land important on biodiversity or carbon grounds, such as primary forest, wetlands and peatlands. In light of this, the Department of Energy and Climate Change will make an announcement later this month, setting out what actions the Government can take to introduce sustainability standards for biomass in the UK.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of bovine tuberculosis were recorded in *(a)* West Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, *(b)* Cornwall, *(c)* the South West and *(d)* England in each of the last 10 years. [322729]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are unable to give data for areas smaller than county level due to data protection reasons. These reasons include identification of individual herds. We are therefore unable to provide data for West Cornwall. However, we can confirm that there have been no cases of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in the Isles of Scilly during the last 10 years. The following table shows the number of cases of bTB in Cornwall, the South West, and England in each of the last 10 years.

	Cornwall	*South-west (GO region)*[1]	*England*
2009	475	2,070	3,350
2008	552	2,366	3,746
2007	416	2,038	3,183
2006	349	1,667	2,721
2005	429	1,920	2,904
2004	397	1,745	2,612
2003	371	1,679	2,516
2002	453	1,788	2,622
2001	97	374	583
2000	228	1,017	1,423

[1] The south-west Government office region includes; Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, the Isles of Scilly, Somerset and Wiltshire.

Notes:
1. Data from VetNet are produced three months in arrears and the latest report available is for December 2009. Therefore data cannot be provided for the last three months.
2. Data from VetNet are provisional and subject to change as more data become available.

Source:
VetNet

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to tackle bovine tuberculosis in Devon. [323209]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This Government remain committed to working with industry to reduce bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in all parts of England, including Devon.

We have a package of measures in place to reduce the further spread and incidence of bovine bTB including regular testing of cattle, zero tolerance of overdue tests, pre-movement testing and extended use of gamma interferon. We are also continuing to make significant investment in vaccines. £20 million will be spent on vaccine development during the current spending period. A Badger Vaccine Deployment Project will take place in six high incidence areas (each of 100km^2) in England, two of which are in Devon. The aim is that the vaccination of badgers will commence this summer and continue for at least five years in each area.

Since November 2008, DEFRA has worked alongside the farming industry and veterinary profession through the Bovine TB Eradication Group for England to tackle bTB and move towards eradication. On 8 October 2009, the Group published a progress report including a number of recommendations now being implemented.

In November 2009 the EU Commission formally agreed to the UK's Eradication Plan and to provide funding of up to €10 million for 2010. This funding will be shared between DEFRA and the Welsh and Northern Irish administrations.

Cattle: Diseases

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle have been culled as a result of contracting *(a)* bovine tuberculosis and *(b)* other diseases in (i) Cornwall, (ii) the South West and (iii) England in each of the last 10 years. [322728]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table displays the number of reactors slaughtered as a consequence of bovine tuberculosis in each of the last 10 years.

	Cornwall	*South West Region (GO)*[1]	*England*
2009	3,426	15,770	24,500
2008	3,585	16,570	26,038
2007	2,303	11,988	18,543
2006	1,662	9,209	14,585
2005	3,339	14,581	20,145
2004	2,338	10,466	15,093
2003	2,314	10,461	15,120
2002	2,616	10,608	15,482
2001	702	2,452	3,804
2000	1,105	4,529	7,073

[1] The South West Government Office region includes; Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, the Isles of Scilly, Somerset and Wiltshire.

Notes:
1. Data from Vetnet are produced three months in arrears and the latest report available is for December 2009. Therefore data cannot be provided for the last three months.
2. Data from Vetnet are provisional and subject to change as more data becomes available.

Source:
Vetnet

The following table shows the number of cattle killed on suspicion of being affected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in England in each of the last 10 years.

	England	*South West Region*	*Cornwall*
2009	12	6	4
2008	28	14	3
2007	53	25	5
2006	96	38	6
2005	122	53	18
2004	258	96	22
2003	340	150	39

	England	South West Region	Cornwall
2002	687	238	60
2001	1,009	333	64
2000	1,561	539	101

Source:
Veterinary Laboratories Agency's BSE Database

For the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak of 2001, the number of cattle culled as a result of contracting FMD during 2001 was 1,407 in Cornwall, 86,630 in the South West and 581,802 in England.

For the FMD outbreak of 2007, no cattle were culled in Cornwall or the South West during 2007 as a result of contracting the disease, but 982 cattle were culled in England.

For the Bluetongue outbreak of 2007, no cattle were culled in Cornwall or the South West during 2007 as a result of contracting the disease, but five cows were culled in England.

The above figures were sourced from Animal Health.

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319092]

Dan Norris: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will be participating in the annual Earth Hour event on Saturday 27 March by switching off unnecessary lights at all headquarters properties within its estate.

The Department will also be promoting the event to its staff, encouraging personal participation.

Departmental Offices

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on office refurbishments in each year since its inception. [320473]

Dan Norris: Since its inception in June 2001 the Department has spent £112,070,295 on office refurbishments within its estate portfolio. This figure includes works, professional fees and appropriate VAT.

The figure provided is for a single total cost. While our current systems could readily identify recent spend by year the costs required to provide a year by year position from inception would be disproportionate (in excess of £800).

Livestock: Waste Disposal

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Fallen Stock Scheme in containing diseases; and if he will make a statement. [321973]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In October 2009 the National Fallen Stock Company (NFSCo), which runs the National Fallen Stock Scheme, was transferred from Government ownership to become a Community Interest Company. However, the scheme continues to provide an excellent service, has a growing farmer membership, and ensures that strict biosecurity conditions are applied to the collection and disposal of fallen stock to help prevent the spread of disease.

Nature Conservation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking in *(a)* this country and *(b)* international forums to curb illegal trade in endangered species. [322743]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Primary responsibility for enforcing wildlife legislation rests with the Police Service and the UK Border Agency. DEFRA actively supports their activities through the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW).

DEFRA, together with the Home Office, is the main source of funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU). The UK is one of only a handful of countries having a specialist wildlife crime unit and is a world leader in this respect. The Unit spearheads national action to reduce wildlife crime and is the UK's focal point for international wildlife crime enquiries.

The UK has selected wildlife crime priorities for urgent action, either because of their impact on the conservation of certain species or because high levels of crime have been reported. The priorities include species covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Endangered species listed on annexe A to CITES require licences in order to be traded within the UK. Animal Health operates a panel of wildlife inspectors who carry out inspections to ensure that the legislation is complied with; it also has an enforcement team which provides information from its records in support of prosecutions.

Internationally, the UK Government (through DEFRA) is the current chair of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT) - an international organisation which aims to focus public and political attention and resources on ending the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

Further international protection is offered by the UK's commitment to working with 174 other countries through our membership of CITES. Through CITES, member countries work to protect endangered species of plants and animals by restricting and monitoring international trade in them.

Noise

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the Noise Policy Statement for England. [323474]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since its publication on 15 March 2010, no representations have been received with regard to the Noise Policy Statement for England. In developing the Statement, DEFRA officials met with all of the relevant Government Departments, including a number of key external stakeholders, ranging in interests from industry to non-governmental organisations, who expressed broad support for it.

Pollution Control

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions a decision taken at an early stage by the Environment Agency on what constitutes best available techniques in respect of a staged application for pollution prevention and control permits has subsequently been *(a)* confirmed and *(b)* reversed in the last five years. [323496]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Environment Agency has had only one staged application in the last five years but this has now been withdrawn.

Snow and Ice

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many members of his Department have taken authorised days of absence owing to severe weather in 2010. [322513]

Dan Norris: The Department does not keep central records of the number of staff who were unable to attend the office in 2010 due to severe weather conditions. We are therefore unable to provide this information without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Staff unable to travel to their normal place of work will have agreed individual arrangements with their line managers. Options available will have included working from home, taking annual leave, and adjusting their flexible working arrangements.

Trees

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of trees planted in England in each of the last 10 years. [317023]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* Tree planting is normally recorded on the basis of area planted, and this is made up of a combination of new woodland creation and replanting after the harvesting of timber from existing woodland.

The area of planting and restocking over the last ten years is given in the following table.

Hectares

Year ending 31 March	*New woodland creation*		*Replanting of existing woodland*	
	Broadleaf	*Conifer*	*Broadleaf*	*Conifer*
2000	5,200	700	1,400	2,500
2001	5,200	700	1,200	2,700
2002	4,700	700	800	2,600
2003	5,400	500	900	2,400
2004	4,400	200	900	2,300
2005	5,100	200	900	2,000
2006	3,600	100	1,100	2,100
2007	3,100	100	900	1,800
2008	2,500	100	1,500	2,000
2009	2,100	Nil	1,500	1,700

It is estimated that broad-leaved planting is at an average density of 1,500 trees per hectare, and conifer planting is at an average density of 2,200 trees per hectare, for both new woodland creation and replanting.

Waste Disposal: Research

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on his Department's research project commissioned from the Central Science Laboratory with reference WM0317. [323148]

Dan Norris: The report of the Central Science Laboratory (now the Food and Environment Research Agency) on the use of analgesics and rodenticides (reference WM0317) has yet to be submitted to DEFRA and thus cannot yet be placed in the Library. Delay has arisen through unexpected additional priorities for specialist staff. We expect to receive the report soon and this will be placed in the Library after appropriate subsequent review.

Wind Power

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued on the erection of wind turbines on common land. [323149]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has published guidance setting out its policy in relation to the determination of applications to the Secretary of State for consent under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 to construct restricted works on common land in England, and under section 16(1) of the 2006 Act to deregister and exchange common land in England.

The guidance is published on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/rural/protected/commonland/protect-consent.htm#guide

The guidance explains the Secretary of State's view, in relation to the erection of wind farms on registered common land, that:

"4.13 The Secretary of State wishes to promote sustainable energy generation in an appropriate setting, but equally, his policy is to ensure that the stock of commons is not diminished, that works on common land must maintain or improve the condition of the common, and the use must be consistent with its status as common land. To balance these issues our expectation is that applications for such infrastructure projects on common land are more likely to be successful under section 16 of the Act, so that an exchange of land is proposed and can be taken into account. An application for consent to such works under section 38 will rarely be granted unless there are convincing reasons why an application under section 16 cannot be pursued."

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what activities will be funded under the Adult Learner Responsive sub-total for the Development Learning category in the Strategy Document, Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11, November 2009; and if he will make a statement. [323004]

Kevin Brennan: The Department routes funding through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for the provision of further education (FE) and skills training for adult learners aged 19 and over. This includes activity categorised as Developmental Learning through the demand-led Adult Learner Responsive funding stream (ALR).

Developmental Learning may be used to fund learning aims eligible for funding which are not otherwise funded through one of the priority qualification categories which are: Full Level 2, Full Level 3, Level 4, Foundation Learning and Skills for Life.

It can therefore include learning aims for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities not included in any other category, 19+ learners completing a 16 to 18 programme (learners who draw down entitlement funding), trade union studies and initial teacher training.

The actual mix and balance of this activity will depend on learner demand.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment has been made of the level of support and resources the Skills Funding Agency will require for administering the provision of learning for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [323272]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) are currently responsible for funding further education (FE) and training for adult learners aged 19 and over delivered by FE colleges and training organisations. The LSC do not deliver any provision directly.

In 2009/10 academic year the cost of provision for learners aged 19 or over with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) will be supported through the same adult budgets as those learners without LDD. Learners with LDD in mainstream provision can have their additional support needs met through Additional Learning Support Funding (ALS). For the 2009/10 academic year around £150 million was allocated to FE colleges and training organisations for this purpose. However it should be noted that ALS funding is not solely for learners with LDD and can also be used to meet the needs of other vulnerable groups.

Funding allocations for 2010/11 academic year are currently under way. It is therefore not possible to provide information on a funding amount at this stage.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria will be used to establish which learners will be covered by the provision of the Adult Learner Responsive sub-total for the Foundation Learning (excluding Skills for Life) category in the Strategy Document, Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11, November 2009; and if he will make a statement. [323273]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for the funding of further education (FE) and training for adult learners aged 19 and over.

Foundation learning (excluding Skills for Life) funded through the Adult Learner Responsive budget includes nationally accredited provision outside of Skills for Life at entry level and Level 1. Programmes funded through the ALR budget are delivered wholly on the FE college or training organisation's premises. The type of learners funded through this route will vary depending on the needs of learners within each local area.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what type of provision will be provided by the Adult Learner Responsive sub-total for the Foundation Learning (excluding Skills for Life) category in the Strategy Document, Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11, November 2009; and if he will make a statement. [323274]

Kevin Brennan: The Foundation Learning Curriculum helps people currently learning at Entry Level and Level 1 to progress to Level 2.

The curriculum offers a skills combination designed to enhance employability, increase confidence in learning and, in the case of learners with learning difficulties or disabilities, lead to independent living. It comprises three elements: vocational training, functional skills in English, maths and ICT and personal and social development skills. Adult learners will not have to take all three elements, but will be able to tailor their learning, building up a personalised skills set to suit their individual needs and aspirations.

Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people completed an apprenticeship in each industry or service sector in each quarter of the last five years. [321688]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship achievements by Sector Subject Area from 2004/05 to 2008/09. A copy will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Information on the number of apprenticeship achievements by Sector Subject Area is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Apprentices: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people completed apprenticeships in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. [321878]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows apprenticeship achievements for Milton Keynes local authority from 2003/04 onwards, the earliest year for which comparable data are available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship framework achievements for Milton Keynes local authority, 2003/04 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Number of framework achievements*
2003/04	200
2004/05	300
2005/06	400
2006/07	400
2007/08	500
2008/09	600

Notes:
1. Figures for Milton Keynes local authority are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures are based upon home postcode of the learner.
3. Figures include apprenticeships, advanced apprenticeships and higher level apprenticeships.
4. In order to be counted as a successful achievement, all elements of the framework must have been achieved.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship achievements is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Apprentices: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have completed apprenticeships in York in each year since 1996-97. [321693]

Kevin Brennan: The following table shows apprenticeship achievements for York local authority and City of York parliamentary constituency from 2003/04 onwards, the earliest year for which comparable data are available.

Apprenticeship framework achievements for York local authority and City of York parliamentary constituency, 2003/04 to 2008/09

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
York local authority	200	200	300	500	400	600
City of York parliamentary constituency	90	120	210	280	230	380

Notes:
1. Figures for York local authority are rounded to the nearest hundred. Figures for City of York parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Figures are based upon home postcode of the learner.
3. Figures include Apprenticeship, Advanced Apprenticeships and Higher Level Apprenticeships.
4. In order to be counted as a successful achievement, all elements of the framework must have been achieved.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship achievements is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Broadband

Mr. Willis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to require Ofcom to promote training in the telecommunications industry to support the rollout of and access to a universal broadband service. [323539]

Mr. Timms: This Department has no such plans at this stage.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to extend the general access fund for the roll-out of broadband services to mobile as well as fixed line operators; and when he expects the new arrangements to be operable. [323540]

Mr. Timms: The Government are currently consulting on the proposals for the Next Generation Fund, which includes an explanation of the various technologies that may be used to deliver superfast broadband to 90 per cent. of UK households. Further decisions will be announced in due course.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to make access to 2Mbps minimum speeds for universal broadband access mandatory. [323573]

Mr. Timms: Both the Digital Britain Report and the 2009 Budget stated that

"The Government will pursue Universal Service in broadband, at a speed of 2 Megabits per second, by no later than 2012. This target will allow virtually everyone to experience the benefits of broadband, including the increasing delivery of public services online. We are currently working with the newly formed body Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) to take this work forward."

Broadband: Harrogate

Mr. Willis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which telecommunications exchanges in Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency will be enabled with superfast broadband fibre; and when he expects this work to be completed. [323538]

Mr. Timms: Decisions over where to provide superfast broadband are in the first instance commercial decisions for network operators. The Government announced the creation of Broadband Delivery UK on 5 March. This body will be responsible for supporting private sector investment to deliver superfast broadband to 90 per cent. of households by 2017.

Business: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department and its predecessors have taken to support small businesses in Preston since 1997. [311131]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Northwest Development Agency (NWDA), established in 1999, has provided extensive support to small businesses across the region including Preston. The NWDA's main support for small businesses is through regionally available 'Solutions for Business' products in which the agency invested £92.75 million in 2008/09. The 'Solutions for Business' portfolio includes: business finance, improving innovation and efficiency, business start-up, advice on international trade, work force training, and sector development through regional cluster organisations. The primary access point is Business Link North West (BLNW) which provides companies with information, diagnostics and brokerage to specific types of support. Since 2007 BLNW has assisted 5,808 companies in Preston. In addition, NWDA has supported two Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) schemes in the Preston area, one supporting small businesses in Deepdale and the other a £20 million scheme at Avenham. The agency also supported managed workspace at the "Harris Business Centre" operated by the University of Central Lancashire.

Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Chorley constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [314232]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since 1997, the policies and actions of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (and its predecessors) have focused on building a competitive economy and on delivering prosperity and sustainable economic growth. The implementation of BIS policy in Chorley has been taken forward primarily by the North West Development Agency and the Government Office for the north-west, working in partnership with the local authority and other relevant bodies.

Caution must be exercised in seeking to attribute directly the effects of specific measures on local economic indicators. Nonetheless, examples of how BIS policies and actions have impacted on Chorley include:

Levels of skills have increased in the years for which data is available, between 2000 and 2008. Performance at level 2 has increased from 62.7 per cent. to 67.7 per cent., at level 3 from 41.6 per cent. to 48.3 per cent., and at level 4 from 22.3 per cent. to 27.3 per cent.[1];

The stock of VAT registered businesses has increased from 2,880 businesses in 1997 to 3,365 businesses in 2007[2];

The proportion of business registrations (including VAT and PAYE) per 10,000 resident population aged 16 and above (National Indicator 171) has increased from 49.7 in 2002 to 59.5 in 2008[3]; and

The percentage of small businesses showing growth in number of employees (National Indicator 172) has increased from 10.6 per cent. in 2003 to 14.5 per cent. in 2008[4].

[1] Extracted from NOMIS "NVQ Qualifications time series for Chorley".

[2] Extracted from NOMIS, source: BERR—VAT registrations/deregistrations by industry.

[3] Data produced by BIS and available on the BIS website: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/national_indicators/index.htm

[4] As above.

Credit

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from *(a)* consumer bodies and *(b)* other organisations (i) in support of and (ii) against the introduction of a cap on charges in the home credit market; and if he will make a statement. [323173]

Kevin Brennan: With regard to contact with those supporting a cap on interest rates, I met with Damon Gibbons of Debt on your Doorstep and my right hon. Friend the Member for Makerfield (Mr. McCartney) in October 2009. Damon Gibbons also wrote to me in November 2009 and in January, Joanna Kennedy of the Zacchaeus 2000 Trust emailed my constituency office. With regard to contact with those against introducing a cap on interest rates, John Moulding of Provident Financial wrote to me in November 2009.

Government carefully considered the case for a cap on interest rates following research carried out by Policis in 2004. The research showed that imposing a cap on interest rates could result in lenders withdrawing from the riskier end of the market, including the home credit market, denying vulnerable consumers access to legitimate sources of credit and potentially forcing them to resort to illegal money lending. This was a view shared by leading consumer groups including Citizens Advice, the Association of British Credit Unions, the Institute of Public Policy Research, Which? and Advice UK. The Office of Fair Trading is reviewing the high cost credit market, including the case for a rate cap, and will report shortly. Government will respond to the review when published.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on office refurbishments since its inception. [320474]

Mr. McFadden: Since its inception in June 2009, this Department has spent £5.42 million (inclusive of VAT) on office refurbishments to date. We are currently in the middle of refurbishing our main ministerial building 1 Victoria street.

This investment will allow us to vacate Kingsgate House, London when the lease expires in March 2012 which currently costs around £10 million per annum to run. We have also been able to vacate a property in Glasgow and move to vacant Government space saving £0.5 million per annum on running costs.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department and its agencies. [322562]

Mr. McFadden: The 2009 People Survey results for BIS and its agencies will be placed in the Libraries of the House. These results are also available on the BIS website at "Related documents" under the heading "Who we are":

http://www.bis.gov.uk/About/who-we-are

East of England Development Agency: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments the East of England Development Agency has made to Fishburn Hedges in each of the last three years; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [302302]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Fishburn Hedges have provided support to EEDA with a wide range of communications and public relations support including specific public affairs services. This support includes high-level advice, legislative and policy updates, a parliamentary monitoring service, information, briefings and writing support, support on political visits and events, and parliamentary procedures. EEDA does not have sufficient capacity in house to manage all these areas of expertise. Total payments made to Fishburn Hedges in each of the last years are as follows:

	£
2007	222,570.74
2008	73,285.76
2009 (to date)	90,942.28

Note:
These figures are inclusive of VAT.

2007

Date	Amount (£)	Purpose
2 January 2007	2,032.88	Destination Growth 2007 Planning and Development
16 January 2007	2,321.72	Cut Your Carbon Campaign Development
5 March 2007	25,819.39	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
5 April 2007	32,988.69	Month Monitoring Service and Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
13 April 2007	3,429.36	Month Monitoring Service and Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
16 April 2007	10,071.81	Public Affairs Strategy Development
5 April 2007	24,866.33	Event
5 April 2007	35,345.13	Essays—Development and Copywriting
5 April 2007	42,122.86	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
4 June 2007	10,904.34	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
31 July 2007	5,461.86	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
17 July 2007	5,439.13	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
4 September 2007	5,421.61	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
24 September 2007	5,582.71	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
2 November 2007	5,422.78	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
17 December 2007	5,340.14	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy

2008

Date	Amount (£)	Purpose
28 January 2008	5,324.90	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
29 February 2008	5,287.50	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
19 March 2008	5,287.50	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
28 March 2008	12,382.46	Month Monitoring Service and Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
9 May 2008	5,455.78	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
16 June 2008	5,352.13	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
14 July 2008	5,304.36	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
6 August 2008	5,364.99	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
15 September 2008	5,449.85	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
20 November 2008	4,012.43	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
20 November 2008	14,063.86	Month Monitoring Service and Public Affairs Contract Consultancy

2009

Date	Amount (£)	Purpose
16 February 2009	21,423.64	Month Monitoring Service and Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
30 March 2009	10,940.92	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
28 April 2009	10,892.19	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
1 May 2009	11,891.00	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
8 July 2009	6,234.55	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
19 August 2009	11,853.07	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
3 September 2009	5,855.74	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
19 October 2009	5,879.79	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy
4 November 2009	5,971.38	Public Affairs Contract Consultancy

Notes:

There have been three contractual arrangements between the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and Fishburn Hedges since 2006 (the period to which the question relates). The following documents will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Contract 2006062—Public Affairs contract

This contract was for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 August 2006. It was an extension of a previous arrangement, under contract reference number 04/57, which ran from November 2004 to March 2006.

This document has been modified only:

(a) to protect individuals' personal data; and

(b) to remove information relating to EEDA's internal processes. This information is commercially sensitive, in that it relates to EEDA's general approach to procurement strategy and supplier selection, and disclosure would not be in the public interest, as it would undermine the ability of EEDA to effectively conduct future procurement activities, and to achieve effective use of public money.

Contract 2006079

This is the contract agreement for the multi-disciplinary marketing support call off contract that lasted for two years up to November 2008. This document has been amended to remove the specific daily rate referred to in paragraph 3. Please take the following into account:

The amount of the daily rate in offer letter has been removed because it is information that is still of commercial significance to the contractor and to which a duty of confidentiality applies.

The contractor's Proposal (Attachment 1) has not been supplied. This document contains:

i. the personal data of individuals

ii. information relating to projects carried out by third parties, and

iii. information on the commercial and business method and interests of the contractor which retain commercial sensitivity and are subject to a duty of confidentiality

The list of key personnel (Appendix D) has not been supplied because it contains the personal data of individuals.

Contract 2006084—Public Affairs

This is a public affairs call-off contract.

Two documents relate to this contract.

The first is the original contract. It has been amended to remove the specific daily rate referred to in paragraph 3.

The amount of the daily rate in offer letter has been removed because it is information that is still of commercial significance to the contractor and to which a duty of confidentiality applies.

The contractor's Proposal (Attachment 1) has not been supplied. This document contains:

i. the personal data of individuals

ii. information relating to projects carried out by third parties, and

iii. information on the commercial and business method and interests of the contractor which retain commercial sensitivity and are subject to a duty of confidentiality.

The list of Key Personnel (Appendix D) has not been supplied because it contains the personal data of individuals.

A second document extends the length of the contract noted above. It has not been modified.

Employment

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of people aged 24 years or under in *(a)* the City of York, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* England are in education, employment or training. [321728]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number and percentage of people aged[1] 16 to 24 in education, employment or training in Yorkshire and Humber and England in quarter 4 2009. This information is from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Estimates for small geographies such as local authorities are available from the Annual Population Survey (APS), for which the latest data available relate to 2008. Estimates for York are given in table 2.

Please note that all of these estimates are subject to sampling variability, which is larger for smaller geographies, and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals[2] (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of +/-2.8 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 2.8pp above the estimate and 2.8pp below the estimate.

[1] Age used is respondents' academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

[2] Those given are 95 per cent. confidence intervals

Table 1: People aged 16 to 24 in education, employment or training, Q4 2009

	Number of 16 to 24-year-olds in EET	*Percentage of all 16 to 24-year-olds in EET*	*Confidence Interval*
England	5,140,000	85.2	+/- 0.7pp
Yorks and Humber	572,000	83.4	+/- 2.2pp

Source:
Q4 2009 Labour Force Survey.

Table 2: People aged 16 to 24 in education, employment or training, 2008

	Number of 16 to 24-year-olds in EET	*Percentage of all 16 to 24-year-olds in EET*	*Confidence Interval*
York LA	30,000	95.7	+/- 2.8pp

Source:
2008 Annual Population Survey.

Estate Agents: Regulation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the Office of Fair Trading's recent recommendation against the introduction of further regulation of estate agents. [323284]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) published its market study report on "Home buying and selling" on 18 February 2010.

I am grateful to the OFT for its report. We will consider the recommendations which have been addressed to the Government and publish a response in due course.

Higher Education

Mr. Willis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Higher Education Funding Council for England has instructed universities to cease to provide higher education courses through an education college since September 2009. [323024]

Mr. Lammy: I can confirm that the Higher Education Funding Council for England have not instructed universities to cease to provide higher education courses through an education college since September 2009.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area (i) applied for and (ii) were accepted for a place at university in each of the last three years. [321697]

Mr. Lammy: The information will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

National Skills Academies

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many expressions of interest have been received to set up new National Skills Academies; and if he will make a statement. [321820]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) received 12 Expressions of Interest (EoI) to set up new National Skills Academies (NSAs), in response to the NSA Fifth Round Prospectus. The bidding round is an independent process led and managed by the LSC and an announcement of the EoIs selected for further development is expected to be made very shortly.

National Skills Academies are successful in shaping skills provision in their sectors and in attracting employer commitment and investment in skills. This further expansion of the NSA network will build on that success, establishing NSAs as the leading employer-led skills delivery, and in taking us a step further towards the aspiration of having at least one NSA for every major sector of the economy as resources allow.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on *(a)* empty property rates and *(b)* empty property relief since January 2007. [323164]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has regular discussions with other Government Departments on matters affecting business, including with Communities and Local Government on business rates and rate relief schemes.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) on how many occasions a sub-post office temporarily closed has been reclassified as a permanent closure since the first quarter of 2008; [321352]

(2) in what circumstances a post office classified as temporarily closed is reclassified as a permanent closure; [321353]

(3) how many sub-post offices which have temporarily closed in each quarter since the first quarter of 2008 remain closed; [321354]

(4) what the average time taken to provide a replacement branch in place of a sub-post office which had been temporarily closed was in each quarter since the first quarter of 2008; [321355]

(5) how many post offices classified as temporarily closed have been reintroduced as outreach services rather than re-opened; [321356]

(6) how many post offices temporarily closed have been replaced with the Post Office Essential Service. [321357]

Mr. McFadden: I have asked Alan Cook, managing director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Development Agencies: Trade Unions

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* regional development agencies have given to support the regional union network. [311474]

Mr. McFadden: This Department does not provide funding directly in support of the regional union network.

Regional Development Agencies (RDA) fund initiatives through a variety of third party organisations to deliver projects to increase economic growth, such as on workforce development and economic inclusion. The specific focus and priorities of such activities are set out in each region's Regional Economic Strategy and will differ according to the needs, opportunities and priorities for economic growth in each region.

The following table shows RDA funding to trade unions for 2003-09. The RDAs retain records of the last six years. To provide records before this period will incur disproportionate costs.

Total amount of RDA funding to trade unions 2003-09

	£
Advantage West Midlands	1,151,116
East of England Development Agency	189,000
East Midlands Development Agency	744,000
London Development Agency	911,000
North West Development Agency	801,957
One North East	472,569
South East Development Agency	561,460
South West Development Agency	2,112,592
Yorkshire Forward	446,816

Remploy

Colin Burgon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent on consultants' advice in relation to Remploy in 2008-09; how much has been so spent in 2009-10 to date; which consultants have been engaged in each year; and how much each has been paid to date. [322790]

Mr. McFadden: The Department's accounting system does not separately identify how much has been spent on consultants' advice in relation to Remploy, or the names of the consultants that may have given such advice. An exercise to try and obtain such information could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Telecommunications: EC Action

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to bring forward legislation to implement the provisions of the new EU Telecoms Directives; and what consultation will take place prior to implementation. [323230]

Mr. Timms: The Department is working with Ofcom, the Information Commissioner's Office and relevant Government Departments to determine what legislative changes are required to implement the provisions of the new EU Telecoms Directives, and has begun informal discussions with consumer and industry parties affected by the changes.

We will consult widely over the summer with the intention of bringing forward secondary legislation under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 to implement the changes by 25 May 2011.

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Ofcom, *(b)* representatives of industry and *(c)* consumer groups on the implementation of the new number portability rights and obligations introduced by the EU Citizens' Rights Directive. [323231]

Mr. Timms: The Department have had regular contact with Ofcom to discuss the maintenance and application of the number portability regime in the UK in general. Additionally they have held discussions to consider specifically implementation of the electronic communications framework review and the implications this has for number portability in the UK. Ofcom plan to publish a statement and a further public consultation shortly on improving number portability in the UK and although this was work which was already under way it is consistent with the provisions of the new directives.

Ofcom's statement and public consultation will precede a fuller, separate, review of switching processes to take place later this year across the entire range of converging electronic communications sectors which will take into account the changes required by the EU Citizens' Rights Directive.

The Department will consult widely on implementation of the European Framework Review (including the Citizens' Rights Directive) over the summer with the intention of bringing forward secondary legislation under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 to implement the changes by 25 May 2011. Some informal discussions have already taken place with operators (e.g. with Hutchison, 3UK and Vodafone) on number portability. We have also had informal discussions with Consumer Focus.

More formal engagement on the detail of the new requirements is planned for the consultation and we are committed to engaging with Ofcom, industry and relevant consumer groups throughout the implementation period from now to end May 2011.

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to prepare for implementation of the new number portability rights and obligations introduced by the EU Citizens' Rights Directive. [323232]

Mr. Timms: The Department have had regular contact with Ofcom to discuss the maintenance and application of the number portability regime in the UK in general. Additionally they have held discussions to consider specifically implementation of the electronic communications framework review and the implications this has for number portability in the UK. Ofcom plan to publish a statement and a further public consultation shortly on improving number portability in the UK and although this was work which was already under way it is consistent with the provisions of the new directives.

Ofcom's statement and public consultation will precede a fuller, separate, review of switching processes to take place later this year across the entire range of converging electronic communications sectors which will take into account the changes required by the EU Citizens' Rights Directive.

At the same time the Department is working with Ofcom to determine what legislative changes are required to implement the new provisions and we have begun informal discussions with consumer and industry parties affected by the changes.

We will consult widely over the summer with the intention of bringing forward Secondary Legislation under Section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 to implement the changes by 25 May 2011.

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with Ofcom on assisting business to meet the new number portability rights and obligations introduced by the EU Citizens' Rights Directive. [323233]

Mr. Timms: The Department are in regular contact with Ofcom to discuss the maintenance and application of the number portability regime for electronic communications in the UK. The Department have recently had discussions with Ofcom on their forthcoming statement and public consultation on improving number porting in the UK. This work was already under way and is consistent with the new directives.

The Department will consult widely on implementation of the European Framework Review over the summer with the intention of bringing forward secondary legislation under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 to implement the changes by 25 May 2011. Some informal discussions with operators have already taken place (e.g. with Hutchison, 3UK and Vodafone). More formal engagement on the detail of the new requirements is planned for the consultation and we are committed to engaging with Ofcom and industry throughout the implementation period from now to end May 2011.

Young People: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of people aged 24 years or under in Milton Keynes are in education, employment or training. [321875]

Kevin Brennan: In 2008 it is estimated that 90.9 per cent. of 16 to 24-year-olds[1] in Milton Keynes local authority were in education, employment or training. These figures are the most recent available from the Annual Population Survey.

Please note that, because the sample sizes for local authority estimates are small, this estimate is subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with its confidence interval[2] of 5.3 percentage points. This means that the true value is somewhere between 85.6 per cent. and 95.8 per cent.

[1] Age used is respondents' academic age, which is defined as their age as at the preceding 31 August.

[2] Those given are 95 per cent. confidence intervals.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 23 March 2010

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Cycling

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she has made an estimate of the number of tickets which will be available to *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* civic and other official guests for the two Olympic Games Mountain Bike events in Hadleigh. [323167]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for ticketing for the London 2012 Games. LOCOG's ticketing approach will ensure that it raises the funding required to stage the games and that it provides affordable and accessible tickets to deliver full venues, including Hadleigh Farm. LOCOG is working now to finalise the sports competition schedule and venue seating plans, and this work needs to be completed before LOCOG will know the numbers of seats and tickets. It is critical that as many tickets as possible end up in the hands of the public. Tickets will go on sale in 2011.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Legal Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department and its predecessors have spent in *(a)* legal fees and *(b)* compensation on legal cases concerning remuneration of its employees in each of the last 10 years. [322055]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not spent any money on legal fees or compensation on legal cases concerning remuneration of employees since October 2007.

No information or record is held by the Department prior to October 2007.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323463]

Mr. Bradshaw: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Television: Smoking

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department intends to take to ensure adherence to the Ofcom code on smoking on television. [323714]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Ofcom Broadcasting Code sets out the rules for broadcasters regarding smoking in programmes. Within the framework of the code it is the responsibility of each broadcaster to make judgments about what individual programmes should contain and at what time they are broadcast. Enforcement of the code is a matter for Ofcom, which operates independently of Government.

Tourism: Finance

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has allocated to the tourism industry in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency in each of the last 10 years. [322936]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* The information requested about tourism funding for Westmorland and Lonsdale is not held centrally. The North West Regional Development Agency (NWRDA) has the primary role in taking forward the north-west regional tourism strategy, and in deciding on investment to promote tourism that would affect Cumbria. The NWRDA spent £14 million in support of tourism in 2008-09.

The overall level of public sector investment in UK tourism from local, regional and national sources is likely to exceed £2 billion in the current spending review period.

In partnership with the industry and the wider public sector, DCMS has a clear and coherent policy framework for promoting tourism. The funding provided for heritage and museums and galleries; for branding and marketing improvements led by VisitBritain and VisitEngland; for the National Skills Strategy for tourism and hospitality; and for the work across Britain to drive up product quality through accommodation grading schemes are all investments by Government which support tourism.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Dogs: Crime

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the incidence of the use of dogs in crime. [322940]

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the incidence of the use of dogs in crime. [322961]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* These data are not collected centrally. We are aware of the growing concerns about the use of dangerous dogs to harass and intimidate people. This has promoted the Government to introduce the new gang injunction power under the Policing and Crime act 2009 and launch a public consultation on managing and controlling dangerous dogs.

Crime: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences committed within the City of York area have been recorded by North Yorkshire Police under the National Crime Recording Standard in each year since 2003-04. [323366]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* All the offences recorded by the police and notified to the Home Office for the period requested have been recorded in accordance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) and the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime.

Offences recorded in the York Community Safety Partnership area are given in the table.

Total offences recorded by the police in the York Community Safety Partnership area

	Number of offences
2003-04	29,347
2004-05	23,080
2005-06	22,784
2006-07	20,935
2007-08	18,901
2008-09	17,886

Crimes of Violence: Crime Prevention

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking with local authorities to tackle gang activity. [322997]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Gangs are part of the wider serious youth violence agenda, on which the Government have spent £17.3 million since September 2007 as part of the Tackling Gangs Action Programme (TGAP) and Tackling Knives and Serious Youth Violence Action Programme (TKAP). On 17 March 2010 my right hon. Friend the Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism announced a further £5.5 million for tackling serious youth violence in 2010-11. £1.5 million of this funding has been made available through the Community Fund, ensuring that 150 voluntary and community sector organisations are able to deliver intensive interventions at a local level to young people involved in serious youth violence, including gangs.

Through the Policing and Crime Act 2009 the Home Office created Gang Injunctions, a civil tool to allow local authorities and police to tackle over 18s involved in gang related violence. Parliament is currently considering provisions in the Crime and Security Bill which will allow this civil tool to be used in relation to 14 to 17-year-olds. The £17.3 million funding since September 2007 to tackle gangs and serious youth violence has included £1.6 million to the four cities that were the focus of the TGAP programme, London, Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool, to assist in the multi-agency risk management of violent offenders, including gang members. In Merseyside, for instance, this funding has resulted in the UK's first Violent Offender Management Unit. The Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) have also jointly established a team of experts from police forces, local authorities and central Government that will be available to local partnerships to deliver focused advice and guidance on gangs.

Further support for local schools, partnerships and practitioners can also be found in guidance on safeguarding children and young people who may be involved in gang activity, recently published jointly by the Home Office and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). This guidance builds on the advice already offered in Tackling Gangs: A Practical Guide, published in 2008, which provides key approaches to help local partnerships devise a gangs strategy.

Criminal Records: Vetting

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which countries the United Kingdom has bilateral agreements on exchanging criminal records information for employment vetting purposes; and if he will make a statement. [323590]

Meg Hillier: We do not currently have any bilateral agreements in place but we are in negotiation with a number of countries.

We have reached provisional agreement to exchange criminal record information with Australia and New Zealand for employment checking purposes with an applicant's consent. We are aiming to conclude negotiations around the exact mechanisms for doing so by the end of 2010. We have also reached agreements in principle with Ireland and France in relation to those seeking to work with children.

Within the European Union, under the terms of Council Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA on the organisation and content of the exchange of information extracted from the criminal record between member states, the United Kingdom is told by other member states when a British citizen is convicted of an offence within their jurisdiction. Member states are required to take the necessary measures to comply with this Framework Decision by 27 April 2012. Similarly, information may be received through Interpol channels in relation to British citizens convicted outside the EU. Conviction information received through either channel is recorded on the Police National Computer and so will be disclosed in the same way as convictions in United Kingdom courts.

In many countries individuals, and in some cases third parties, can request criminal records certificates for employment checking purposes. We are currently looking at where we can strengthen the guidance for employers to encourage them to ask to see such certificates, particularly in relation to those seeking work with children and vulnerable adults. We aim to put in place all the information that we have on this process in relation to each country to help employers and prospective employees obtain certificates and understand what is disclosed on them. However, obtaining criminal records is only one aspect of pre-employment checks and good practice is also for employers to obtain character and employment references.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323491]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and statistical reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have already been pre-announced.

Domestic Violence: Crime Prevention

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the level of domestic violence of restraining orders made under section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. [322838]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 was implemented on 30 September 2009. There has been no assessment of the effects of this legislation on the levels of domestic violence.

Immobilisation of Vehicles: Fees and Charges

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what cap he plans to impose on the charge levied by vehicle immobilisation businesses for the release of a vehicle. [323480]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2010]:* Proposals contained in the Crime and Security Bill will make it mandatory for all wheel clamping businesses working on private land to be licensed and to adhere to a strict code of practice. The code will include maximum release fees which may be charged in connection with wheel clamping of vehicles and the related activities of towing and impounding. The details of the code of practice, including maximum fees, will be set out after further consultation with stakeholders.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Independent Police Complaints Commission in holding the actions of police forces to account; [323275]

(2) if he will take steps to require police forces to implement the recommendations of the Independent Police Complaints Commission or to state publicly the reasons why they do not intend to implement them. [323276]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* On receipt of a report of an investigation conducted by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) police chiefs are required to report back to the IPCC on the action the police force proposes to take in respect of the matters dealt with in the report. Such matters will include consideration of recommendations from the IPCC as to whether disciplinary proceedings should be brought against a person serving with the police.

Where the force does not accept the recommendation of the IPCC as to the bringing of disciplinary proceedings, the IPCC has the power to direct that disciplinary proceedings are brought.

The Public Accounts Committee's Fifteenth Report on the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), published in March 2009, recommended that the Home Office clarify responsibility for monitoring the implementation IPCC recommendations. Work is currently under way to put in place a suitable framework to achieve this.

The work of the IPCC is crucial to maintaining an effective and efficient police complaints system in England and Wales. The work of the IPCC is subject to detailed scrutiny in for example, criminal, coroners' and disciplinary proceedings. It has led directly to holding individual officers to account.

More widely, the IPCC also chairs a national Learning the Lessons committee with police stakeholders, ensuring that key lessons from investigations are identified and promulgated, leading to overall improvements in policing.

Passports

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of British citizens who hold a valid *(a)* UK passport and *(b)* UK biometric passport. [317215]

Meg Hillier: The latest estimate is that in September 2008 there were some 47 million valid United Kingdom passports covering some 77 per cent. of the population. The split between non-biometric and biometric passports (which were first issued in 2006) is not available.

Police

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in England and Wales in 2009. [323511]

Mr. Hanson: There were 144,353 police officers (including those on maternity leave and career breaks) in the 43 police forces of England and Wales as at 30 September 2009.

These and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police: Harassment

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of harassment in the workplace were reported by employees of *(a)* police services and *(b)* his Department in each of the last 10 years. [321438]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of incidents of harassment in the workplace in the police service is not collected centrally.

Information prior to the 2005-06 financial year is not held centrally within the Home Office (excluding its agencies) and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. We are unable to provide information in relation to the number of allegations of harassment within Home Office HQ in each year since 2005-06 as there were fewer than five cases in each year. Further information is therefore withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

Terrorism: Detainees

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals are being detained in the UK under anti-terrorist legislation. [323378]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The only anti-terrorism legislation in the UK which provides for the detention of individuals is section 41 of and schedule 8 to the Terrorism Act 2000. This provides for persons arrested as terrorist suspects to be detained pre-charge (for up to a maximum of 28 days). The Home Office does not hold statistics on how many foreign nationals are, or have been, detained under these provisions. However, the Home Office does collate statistics on the number of individuals arrested under section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and the length of time that these individuals are detained pre-charge. These are included in a Bulletin published for the first time on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008). The first edition of the Bulletin is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

The second and third issues of the Bulletin were published on 26 November 2009 and 25 February 2010. These are available via the following links:

26 November 2009

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

25 February 2010

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0410.pdf

SCOTLAND

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323456]

Ann McKechin: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322654]

Ann McKechin: A wide range of security measures are in place to deter and detect theft. These are kept under review and additional measures are put in place as appropriate.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Community Development: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department and its agencies have allocated to local authorities for Parish Path initiatives and partnerships in each year since such partnerships were established. [323525]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Parish Paths Partnership was launched by the Countryside Commission in 1992 and ran until 1998 as a demonstration project. Some local authorities continue to run and fund the scheme, which is aimed at improving and maintaining local public rights of way. There is no centrally held information as to which authorities continue to operate the Parish Paths Partnership scheme, and how much funding is allocated to the scheme by those authorities.

Environment Protection: Seas and Oceans

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the Government's Marine Protected Area Strategy; and what priority will be accorded to ecological coherence in the strategy. [323244]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We plan to publish our Marine Protected Area (MPA) strategy before Easter. MPAs are an important tool to achieve the Government's vision for clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. The Government are committed to designating Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the European habitats and birds directives respectively, and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Our ambition is to have sufficient sites designated by the end of 2012 so that they form a UK ecologically coherent network together with existing SACs, SPAs, MCZs, Ramsar sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and those sites designated by the Devolved Administrations.

Fish: Conservation

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to protect fish stocks in UK waters; and if he will make a statement. [323850]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As UK Fisheries Minister, I have made clear that the conservation of our fish stocks is my top priority. Without sustainable fish stocks, we cannot have a sustainable fishing industry. I want to see that reflected in reform of the common fisheries policy.

In the last round of EU Fisheries Council negotiations, I supported the setting of catch limits for this year, which reflected the scientific advice for the stocks in

question—and only sought to alter the Commission's proposals where these would have caused significant economic difficulties for the coastal communities concerned. Ultimately, this represented a balance of UK interests.

In the lead-up to this year's negotiations, we will be working with industry and colleagues from the devolved Administrations to further encourage the widespread application of more selective fishing gear and working practices, to deliver even more significant reductions in discards, and eventually more sustainable fish stocks in UK (and EU) waters.

Rodents

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the Central Science Laboratory research reports commissioned by his Department on rodent issues with reference MoU with CSL - WM05002. [323055]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The memorandum of understanding between DEFRA and the Food and Environment Research Agency (previously the Central Science Laboratory) refers to the "English House Condition Survey Rodent Element and other Rodent Issues". The only reports commissioned on rodents under this agreement have been those reporting on infestation of dwellings by commensal rodents, derived from data arising from the rodent element of the English House Condition Survey. Copies of these commensal rodent infestation reports are already available in the House Library.

Rural Development Programme: North West

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding has been allocated to businesses in the North West under the Rural Development Programme for England to date; and how many businesses in that region have participated in the programme. [323815]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Under the socio-economic measures of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), to date £62 million of funding has been committed to businesses in the North West for investment projects. This has benefitted 367 businesses in that region.

These figures do not include those businesses benefitting under axis 2 of the programme from the agri-environment or forestry schemes, or payments under the Hill Farm Allowance.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Talisman project is fully operational in Afghanistan. [323638]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Talisman route clearance system is currently in theatre and should be operational soon. As with other counter-improvised explosive device systems, Talisman is a developing capability and will continue to evolve over the coming months. I am withholding information on the exact schedule as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Animal Experiments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many animals of each species involved in procedures died as a result of those procedures at *(a)* Porton Down and *(b)* other establishments for which he is responsible in each of the last five years. [322457]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) returns the numbers of procedures undertaken involving animals at DSTL Porton Down to the Home Office on an annual basis, the numbers of procedures returned for last five years are detailed in the following table. This is the only designated defence establishment for such procedures.

Numbers of DSTL procedures returned to the Home Office

	Guinea Pig	*Ferret*	*Mouse*	*Pig*	*Rabbit*	*Rat*	*Sheep*	*Non-human primate*	*Total*
2005	661	60	20,016	127	3	195	2	54	21,118
2006	545	0	15,986	123	0	335	4	52	17,045
2007	647	0	17,095	74	5	359	2	75	18,257
2008	254	0	10,404	113	2	549	0	55	11,380
2009	190	3	7,698	96	30	5	0	149	8,168

A very large proportion, approximately 95 per cent. of the total number of animals involved in the procedures either died during the procedure, or were humanely culled at the end of the procedures, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986:

http://www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/document/hoc/321/321-xa.htm

Sections 3D, 14 (3) and 15 (2) detail the requirement for specific approval to keep animals alive after the completion of any regulated procedure.

A small number of animals, are approved for re-use in further procedures. An example of re-use was the herd of goats retained at Alverstoke for use in the hyperbaric research programme supporting the Ministry of Defence's Submarine Escape Rescue and Abandonment System. This programme ceased in November 2006, as formally announced in a written ministerial statement on 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 70WS.

Armed Forces: Training

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he received on the research and assessment facility at the Defence Academy prior to the decision to close it; and if he will make a statement. [321484]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 10 March 2010]:* No representations were made prior to the decision to close the Research and Assessment Branch at the Academy.

The decision was taken as part of our regular review of Defence spending to ensure resources are focused on our top priority—success and support to operations in Afghanistan. To support this, the Secretary of State for Defence announced on 15 December 2009 a package amounting to £900 million over three years. However, in taking the latter decision we must prioritise rigorously and recognise that tough choices are required to better match the Defence programme to the available resources.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which company has been awarded the contract to supply 200 vehicles as part of the light protected patrol vehicle programme: and if he will make a statement. [323639]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A contract has not yet been awarded as the Ministry of Defence is still conducting the Concept Vehicle Evaluation trial phase of the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle (LPPV) Programme. Two contenders, which could fill the LPPV requirement, are currently being trialled, and it is expected that this phase will be completed in April 2010.

WALES

Out of Area Treatment

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on arrangements for cross-border healthcare. [321890]

Mr. Hain: I have regular meetings with the First Minister and we keep under review the cross-border implications of the policies of both Governments. The position of the Governments in Westminster and Wales is that the border should not represent a barrier to provision of health care, and to that end we have worked closely together on the Revised Protocol for Cross-border Healthcare. The Protocol provides increased clarity on commissioning and funding arrangements and on access standards for patients. It ensures patients who live in border regions and who access health services across the border will continue to see improvements to their services. Across the entire UK the Government remain committed to the core defining principles of an NHS funded by tax and free at the point of use.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Illegal Immigrants

Robert Neill: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many people have been identified as working illegally on the parliamentary estate in each of the last five years. [323041]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer provided on 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 3W.

Nurseries

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* hon. Members are on the waiting list for a place in the proposed House of Commons day nursery for one or more children. [323705]

Nick Harvey: There is no such waiting list at the present time, but much interest has been expressed informally.

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when an application was made to *(a)* English Heritage and *(b)* Westminster city council to make changes to 1 Parliament Street in connection with the creation of a day nursery; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the application. [323706]

Nick Harvey: The design work, which is needed before any application is made, is nearing completion. Any applications made for listed building and change of use consents will be made to Westminster City Council: these will be in the public domain and available in the usual way.

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when the House of Commons Commission met to discuss the public petition against the closure of facilities at the Astor Suite, Bellamy's Bar and Bellamy's Club Room. [323854]

Nick Harvey: The petition was referred to the Commission at its meeting of 8 March 2010.

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns) of 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 731W, on nurseries, how much time was saved as a result of not referring the matter to the Finance and Services Committee. [323952]

Nick Harvey: Referring the matter to the Finance and Services Committee would have delayed the opening of the nursery by introducing a further stage in the process of approval. The nursery would not then have been available for Members' use in the autumn.

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the Oral Answer to the hon. Member for Gainsborough (Mr. Leigh) of 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 428, on Bellamy's bar, for what reasons 1 Parliament Street was preferred to the North Curtain corridor for the location of a day nursery. [323978]

Nick Harvey: Following assessment of the potential sites and advice on their suitability from three child care specialists, 1 Parliament street's advantages over North Curtain Corridor as a location for a nursery included direct access, ease of conversion, its greater degree of natural light and the fact that no Members'

rooms are affected. In addition, the provisional costs including fees of converting 1 Parliament street were provisionally estimated at £490,000 excluding VAT, compared with £607,000 excluding VAT, for North Curtain.

Speaker's Adviser

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the financial implications of creating a new post of special adviser to the Speaker were *(a)* discussed by the House of Commons Commission and *(b)* referred to the Finance and Services Committee. [323707]

Nick Harvey: No.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh: Water

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance the Government are giving to Bangladesh to tackle salinity in *(a)* land and *(b)* groundwater; and if he will make a statement. [323239]

Mr. Michael Foster: Supporting Bangladesh to meet the challenges of climate change, including rising land and groundwater salinity, is an important priority for the Department for International Development (DFID).

Since 2003, the UK has disbursed £4.6 million to the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) managed by the United Nations Development Programme, which has helped the Government and vulnerable communities to better manage the impact of climate change, including rising salinity. For example, some 34,000 people are benefiting from rainwater harvesting and pond sand filters in Satkhira, one of the worst saline affected districts. We recently committed a further £12 million to a second phase of CDMP, and £60 million to a wider Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Climate Change (subject to approval by the Government of Bangladesh), both of which will be drawn upon for similar activities in the future.

The Sanitation, Hygiene and Water Supply Project managed by UNICEF, to which the UK has provided £36 million, is contributing to better national monitoring of water salinity. We are also supporting innovations such as the cultivation of saline-tolerant vegetables in pilot areas.

Burma: Health Services

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding he plans to allocate to the Mae Tao Clinic on the Thailand-Burma border in each of the next three years. [323756]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) allocated £120,000 to the Mae Tao Clinic in 2009-10. DFID has recently received a funding request from the Mae Tao Clinic, for a continuation of funding over the next two financial years, which we are considering.

Burma: International Assistance

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has made an assessment of the adequacy of World Bank *(a)* funding and *(b)* technical advice for development projects in Burma. [323755]

Mr. Thomas: The World Bank has approved no new funding for Burma since 1987 and has no plans to resume its programme. It does not give advice on development projects in Burma. It did however provide valuable technical advice as part of the international humanitarian response to Cyclone Nargis which struck Burma in May 2008.

The UK Government would not support a resumption of World Bank funding for Burma until the country has made genuine progress towards political reconciliation and respect for human rights.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what payments the National Childminding Association has received from his Department in each of the last three years. [305263]

Dawn Primarolo: The total payments made by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to the National Childminding Association (NCMA) in each the last three years are as follows:

	£
April 2007 to March 2008	1,804,136.00
April 2008 to March 2009	2,138,095.00
April 2009 to October 2009	1,117,350.00

The bulk of these totals reflect the regular quarterly payments to the NCMA for the work highlighted in each year's Strategic Grant that it receives from the DCSF to support children, families and communities across the country and help deliver departmental priorities and programmes, with a particular focus on further enhancing the professionalization and professionalism of childminders. The four broad objectives of the Association's Strategic Grant are to:

Support families to access the child care they need;

Improve outcomes for children by developing a highly qualified home-based child care work force;

Narrow the gap for disadvantaged and vulnerable families by raising the quality and scope of childminding practice;

Promote integrated working and childcare initiatives.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on *(a)* advertising and *(b)* consultants in each year since its inception; and how much he expects to spend in each of the next two years. [304754]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's spend on advertising budgets since inception on 28 June 2007 is outlined in the following table. The figures include media spend but do not include production and fees. Figures for 2009/10 are for spend billed to 24 November 2009.

The cost for consultants cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost. Anticipated advertising spend for the next two years cannot be provided at this time.

	£ (exc. VAT)
	Total
2007/08	4,659,786
2008/09	13,891,106
2009/10	4,260,609

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertainment in the last 12 months. [305540]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Details of expenditure on entertainment recorded by the Department in the last financial year are as follows:

2008-09: £16,122.

The figure excludes costs incurred as part of official events or formal meetings held to further departmental business. DCSF is unable to separately identify the costs of alcohol from those of general entertainment; as such expenditure is claimed and recorded under the general heading of Entertainment.

The basic rules governing hospitality are set by HM Treasury.

(a) The following guidance is issued by my Department to staff on the provision of alcohol.

There is a general principle that alcohol should not be provided at public expense and never when only civil servants are present.

Moderate amounts of alcohol can be provided at public expense when entertaining non-civil servants if not providing alcohol might be regarded as unusual or cause embarrassment. Examples of such events are hospitality from Ministers, at publicity events such as launches or the rare occasions when senior staff judge that official business can best be transacted by hosting a meeting over lunch or dinner.

(b) Hospitality expenditure is limited to occasions when official business can best be transacted in that way. Entertainment is usually restricted to where senior managers (deputy director or above) are acting as a host and expenditure must be approved in advance by a director or executive board member.

Teachers: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the gross average salary of a full-time teacher in local authority schools in the City of York was in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each year since 1996-97. [322118]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available for the City of York because it is not possible to verify the reliability of the data source at the constituency level.

The following table provides the average salary of teachers in service in local authority maintained schools in cash terms and real terms for York local authority, in each March, 1997 to 2008.

Average salary of full-time regular teachers[1] in service in local authority maintained schools[2] in cash and real terms[3]. Years: March 1997 to March 2008. Coverage: York local authority

£

	York local authority	
As at March each year	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*
1997	22,600	29,400
1998	23,200	29,500
1999	24,100	29,900
2000	24,900	30,400
2001	26,900	32,400
2002	27,800	32,800
2003	29,700	33,800
2004	30,600	33,900
2005	32,100	34,700
2006	33,100	35,100
2007[4]	34,300	35,300
2008[4]	34,800	34,800

[1] Teachers of all grades including school leadership.
[2] There are no city technology colleges or academies in York local authority.
[3] Real terms figures calculated at 2007-08 prices using 4 January 2010 GDP deflators.
[4] Provisional.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £100.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Teachers: Licensing

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on the proposals contained in his Department's White Paper, Your child, your schools, our future, to introduce a system for the re-licensing of teachers every five years. [322299]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 march 2010]:* We have received representations via correspondence from MPs, teachers' unions and members of the public about our proposals to introduce the licence to practise.

We are continuing discussions with teachers' unions through our social partnership and with the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) to ensure that we design a licensing system which will bring real benefits to the profession.

Subject to the passage of Children, Schools and Families Bill, we remain committed to holding a public consultation on our detailed proposals for the licensing arrangements which will be set out in draft regulations in the spring.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department

and its non-departmental bodies are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323065]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) takes account of advice received from the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when establishing procurement arrangements for the purchase of food.

The Department receives procurement services from Central Procurement Division in the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP). DFP also published guidance in 2008, 'Integrating Sustainable Development into the Procurement of Food and Catering Services', which aims to develop the partnership between the public sector in Northern Ireland and its food suppliers as part of the procurement process.

Guidance produced by DEFRA under the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative also encourages and shows public sector bodies how they can specify higher animal welfare standards, including farm assurance schemes and higher level schemes such as the RSPCA's Freedom Food standards.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Security

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he plans to take to improve airport security. [323979]

Paul Clark: Following the incident on Christmas day, the Government have directed airports to introduce explosive trace detection equipment at all UK airports by the end of the year. We have also brought into force new restrictions which tighten up security screening for transit passengers. Alongside this body scanners have been deployed at Heathrow and Manchester airports with further deployments expected.

We also continue to work within the European Union context to drive up standards in aviation security across Europe.

The threat to aviation and the responses and measures in force are kept under ongoing review and measures are reviewed and amended as needed.

Bus Services: Lancashire

Mr. Pope: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to announce his decision on whether to proceed with the proposed Pennine Reach bus service. [322815]

Mr. Khan: I expect to announce a decision on the bid for Programme Entry very soon.

Channel Tunnel Railway Line: Construction

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of construction jobs that were created by High Speed One; and how many and what proportion of those employed were *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* nationals of other EU countries and *(c)* non-EU nationals. [323713]

Chris Mole: Surveys of contractors and subcontractors employed by London and Continental Railways (LCR) to develop the High Speed 1 railway suggest that the project created about 8,000 jobs and an estimated 50 million man hours were worked during the ten year construction period.

The surveys indicate that some 22 nationalities were employed during the course of the project. However, a further breakdown of this figure is not available because most of the work force was not employed directly by LCR.

Departmental Location

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on the relocation of staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [321425]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport (central) and five of its agencies (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Government Car and Despatch Agency, Highways Agency, Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Vehicle Certification Agency) have not relocated staff from Essex or Castle Point constituency in the last five years. The Driving Standards Agency does not record such relocations separately and could only provide the information at disproportionate cost. The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency spent £11,259.74 relocating staff from Essex in 2005-2006, £59,267.34 in 2006-2007, and nothing in subsequent years. Further detail could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driving: Licensing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1364W, on driving: licensing, how many people were disqualified from driving in each category of disqualification in the last two years for which figures are available. [323475]

Paul Clark: The information requested is not readily available and would incur disproportionate costs to gather. The Ministry of Justice publish a comprehensive breakdown of offences and disqualifications. This can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminalannual.htm

Heathrow Airport: Aircraft

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average daily aircraft movement rate was at Heathrow Airport in each year from 2000 to 2009. [323779]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the average daily aircraft movement rate at Heathrow airport in each year from 2000 to 2009.

	Average daily aircraft movements
2000	1,279
2001	1,270
2002	1,278
2003	1,270

	Average daily aircraft movements
2004	1,304
2005	1,309
2006	1,307
2007	1,319
2008	1,311
2009	1,278

Source:
Civil Aviation Authority—airport statistics 2009, table 3.2.

Heathrow Airport: Passengers

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of air passenger journeys made to Heathrow Airport by *(a)* underground, *(b)* rail, *(c)* car and *(d)* taxi in each year from 2000 to 2009. [323782]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the mode of transport used to get to/from Heathrow airport by terminating passengers in each year from 2000 to 2008. Data for 2009 are not available.

	Tube (percentage)	Rail (percentage)	Private car (percentage)	Taxi/minicab (percentage)	Other (percentage)	Total terminating passengers (million)
2000	14	8	34	26	18	44.7
2001	13	8	35	27	17	41.1
2002	13	9	36	26	16	39.6
2003	14	9	36	25	16	40.1
2004	14	9	35	26	16	43.6
2005	13	10	34	26	17	43.6
2006	13	9	34	28	16	44.2
2007	15	10	33	27	16	44.0
2008	16	10	31	26	17	43.0

Notes:
1. These results are based on a survey of departing passengers only; that is those flying from Heathrow and excluding transfer passengers. It is assumed that arriving and departing passengers share the same modal characteristics.
2. Where there is more than one mode of transport used, the final mode is presented in this table.
3. 'Other' includes bus/coach, hire car, and other modes of transport.

Source:
Civil Aviation Authority's Passenger Survey

Heathrow Airport: Railways

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the statement of 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 446-50, on high speed rail, if he will place in the Library a copy of the remit that has been given to Lord Mawhinney to advise the Government on a high speed station at Heathrow Airport. [323810]

Chris Mole: A copy of a letter from the Secretary of State for Transport to Lord Mawhinney setting out the terms of reference of the review of high speed rail access to Heathrow airport has been placed in the Libraries of the House and is also available on the Department for Transport's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has provided guidance to local authorities on procedures for towing away wrongly-parked vehicles. [323052]

Mr. Khan: Chapter 8 of the Department's 'Operational Guidance to Local Authorities: Parking Policy and Enforcement (March 2008)' provides detailed advice on removal of vehicles that are deemed to be parked in contravention.

Maidstone East Railway Line

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the evidence from the loading records *(a)* referred to in the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 132WH on Hastings Rail Service and *(b)* used to determine that running eight-car trains on the Maidstone East line, as proposed in the Kent route utilisation strategy, would be sustainable. [323663]

Chris Mole: Loading data are the intellectual property of the train operating company concerned. Requests for information should be directed to the managing director of Southeastern as follows:

Mr. Charles Horton
Southeastern
Friars Bridge Court
41-45 Blackfriars Road
London
SE1 8PG.

Motorcycles: Driving Tests

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what representations he has received on recent changes to the motorcycle test procedures. [323659]

Paul Clark: Since the new test was introduced on 27 April 2009, the Driving Standards Agency has received representations from the public and interest groups—primarily about the number of Module 1 test delivery points especially in rural areas, and incidents occurring during the Module 1 test. Some have asked for details of the test design to be reviewed.

In October 2009, the Transport Select Committee took evidence about the new motorcycling test. The Committee's report has been published today.

Driving Standards Agency staff have also been engaged with motorcycling and other interest groups through stakeholder forums and public consultation exercises.

Parking Offences: Closed Circuit Television

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 528W, on parking offences: closed circuit television, whether a privacy impact assessment was produced in relation to the use of local authority CCTV for parking enforcement; and on what basis CCTV may be used for civil parking enforcement. [323040]

Mr. Khan: The certifications we grant to enable CCTV equipment to be used for civil parking enforcement are concerned only with the security, reliability and integrity of the evidence the equipment produces in accordance with regulations made under the Traffic Management Act 2004. We do not seek any information about privacy impact assessments that local authorities may have undertaken for their CCTV systems.

The Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (England) General Regulations 2007—SI 2007 No. 3483—and The Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (Approved Devices) (England) Order 2007—SI 2007 No. 3486—prescribe the statutory basis for the use of CCTV for civil parking enforcement. With regard to other guidance we have issued on the use of CCTV for that purpose, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 330W.

Railways: Construction

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which sites within a 50 mile radius of Amersham have been identified as possible residential sites for workers on High Speed Two. [323711]

Chris Mole: Issues relating to the construction of High Speed Two, were the Government to decide to take it forward following full public consultation in the autumn, would be considered during the more detailed design stages. The Government would expect to seek powers by a Hybrid Bill, so construction and other proposals which required statutory powers would be open to full parliamentary scrutiny.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) if he will publish the hydrogeological risk assessment commissioned by his Department on the effect on the *(a)* ground water and *(b)* aquifer in the Chilterns of the construction of High Speed Two; [323750]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure the protection of boreholes and springs in the Chilterns region against contaminants as a result of the construction of High Speed Two; [323751]

(3) if he will estimate the likely cost of mitigation of any damage to aquifers in the Chilterns resulting from the construction of High Speed Two. [323752]

Chris Mole: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 81W.

Railways: Fares

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the availability of Oyster cards at mainline stations; and if he will make a statement. [323599]

Chris Mole: The retail of Oyster Pay-As-You-Go is limited to London, its area of operation. Stations jointly served by London overground and/or London underground and national rail services are able to issue passengers with new Oyster cards. The Southern and Southeastern train operators also sell the cards at their staffed stations in the Pay-As-You-Go area.

Railways: Fixed Penalties

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions financial penalties have been issued to train operating companies for failure to provide enough seats for rail passengers in each of the last four quarters. [321497]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 10 March 2010]:* A small number of train operators have arrangements in their franchise agreements under which they pay amounts to the Department for Transport in cases where they fail to provide the scheduled number of seats on nominated services. The three operators are Southern (until September 2009), c2c, and Chiltern.

The number of occasions for which a financial penalty has been paid by a train operating company in these circumstances in each of the last four reporting quarters is given in the following table.

Training operating companies

	12 weeks ending			
	2 May 2009	25 July 2009	17 October 2009	9 January 2010
Number of occasions	233	201	141	71

Railways: Freight

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to encourage the transport of freight by rail. [322628]

Chris Mole: In September 2008 we announced an additional funding of £67 million to the sustainable distribution fund. £61 million of this is allocated to the capital budget from which the freight facilities grant allocations are made. We also provide £24 million of funding for mode shift grants through the rail environmental

benefit procurement scheme (REPS). The scheme operates until 31 March 2010, when the mode shift revenue support (MSRS) scheme will replace it. And in the last three years the Government have announced record levels of rail freight investment to support continued growth including £200 million towards the development of a strategic freight network and over £150 million of funding towards the provision of infrastructure enhancement for freight through the productivity transport innovation fund.

Railways: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the punctuality rating was of each rail route serving London in each year from 2005 to 2010; and which company operated each such route in each year. [323849]

Chris Mole: The Office of Rail Regulation shows quarterly and annual punctuality data (the Public Performance Measure) for each operator in its National Rail Trends publication. A link to the website is as follows:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1863

Information on the punctuality of each route serving London is not held by the Department for Transport. Network Rail is responsible for performance data for the rail industry. The hon. Member may wish to contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for such information:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

JUSTICE

Youth Offending

19. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of trends in the level of youth offending. [323403]

Maria Eagle: We have made excellent progress in the last 12 years. The national statistics published last week show that the frequency rate of juvenile reoffending has fallen, with a 24.8 per cent. reduction between 2000 and 2008.

This is in addition to a 12.2 per cent. fall in the number of young people entering the criminal justice system between 2000-01 and 2008-09.

Young Offenders

22. **Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department for Children, Schools and Families on policy to prevent children and young people entering the criminal justice system. [323406]

Maria Eagle: Youth justice is the joint responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Children, Schools and Families and therefore such discussions are routine. Through the Youth Crime Action Plan we made a commitment to reduce the rate of young people entering the criminal justice system by a fifth by 2020. Figures released last November show that this has already been achieved and work continues across both Departments to build on this success.

Witness Protection

23. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps have been taken to improve witness protection arrangements in magistrates courts in the last three years. [323407]

Claire Ward: The Government are committed to ensuring that witnesses who attend court are kept safe and protected. Since 2007, Her Majesty's Courts Service has issued improved guidance which seeks to safeguard the safety of witnesses at court and invested over £825,000 to improve facilities for witnesses. This includes the upgrading and installation of new video link equipment; and provision of in-court witness screens so witnesses are better able to give evidence effectively and safely.

Reoffending

24. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of prison in reducing reoffending. [323408]

Maria Eagle: Prison plays a crucial role in punishing and reforming the most serious, dangerous and persistent offenders. There is a range of programmes in prisons to help reduce the level of reoffending, and there is considerable international evidence to support their effectiveness.

Jury Selection

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria apply to the selection of jury members; and if he will make a statement. [323385]

Claire Ward: Jury members are selected at random. Anyone registered as an elector and aged 18 to 69 who has been ordinarily resident in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for any period of at least five years is qualified to serve. That is subject to two categories of disqualified people: certain people suffering from mental disorder and those on bail or who have received certain prison or community sentences.

End of Custody Licence Scheme

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects on the size of the prison population of ending the end of custody licence scheme; and if he will make a statement. [323400]

Mr. Straw: The end of custody licence scheme was withdrawn on 12 March. This is expected to increase the prison population by an additional 1,000 to 1,200 prisoners by the end of April, as those who would have

been released serve an additional 18 days in custody. Sufficient headroom exists to accommodate these prisoners within existing capacity.

Prisoners: Literacy and Numeracy

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to increase levels of literacy and numeracy among the prison population. [323405]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice works closely in partnership with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who take the lead on offender learning matters. This partnership has helped enable the Learning and Skills Council, through its education providers, to increase and improve the quantity and quality of learning provision in prisons.

Antisocial Behaviour

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding he plans to allocate for the purpose of extending Victim Support services to all victims and witnesses bringing antisocial behaviour cases in magistrates courts. [322842]

Claire Ward: Victim Support has agreed to support victims and witnesses bringing antisocial behaviour cases in magistrates courts as part of their existing witness service at no additional cost.

Courts: Video Conferencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has issued guidance in respect of its virtual court pilot scheme on whether a person who appears in court over a video link from a prison or a police station may be held to be in contempt of court. [322862]

Claire Ward: No guidance has been issued in relation to contempt of court in virtual court cases.

The legislative framework for virtual courts is in sections 57A-57D of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as, amended). The legislation provides that the accused is to be treated as present in court when appearing through a live link under those sections. Case law and legislation concerning contempt in the face of the court would therefore apply to such hearings in the same way as it does to hearings where the defendant is present in court.

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department and its non-departmental bodies are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323075]

Maria Eagle: All products supplied to the Ministry must comply with all current and subsequent relevant UK and EU Legislation, regulations and directives. The suppliers are required to provide products that are sourced in compliance with EC Regulations and from assured providers under animal welfare conditions that are compatible with the UK animal welfare regulations. There are no plans solely to procure or use meat and dairy products which are free-range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme.

George Kelly

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to respond to the request made on 1 February 2010 by the hon. Member for Torbay under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, on George Kelly, reference FOI/63308/10. [323026]

Mr. Wills: A response was sent to the hon. Member last week. I apologise for the unacceptable delay, and for any inconvenience it has caused.

Lands Tribunal

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* applications for permission to appeal, *(b)* notices of appeal and *(c)* final hearings of an appeal in relation to appeals against leasehold valuation tribunal decisions have been dealt with by the Lands Tribunal in each year since 2005-06; what proportion of final hearings of such appeals were successful; what fees were paid to the Lands Tribunal for each type of appeal and hearing in each year; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [323240]

Bridget Prentice: The information available is shown in the following table. The Ministry of Justice records the total number of leasehold valuation appeals received in a format which includes both requests for leave to appeal and appeals lodged. Figures for *(a)* and *(b)* separately could be provided only at disproportionate cost by looking through each case file. In any event, files for cases which have been refused leave by the president are only retained for a year and those which go to hearing are destroyed after three years. The difference between the number of appeals received and heard is accounted for by those which are refused leave to appeal or withdrawn during the appeal process.

Leasehold valuation appeals

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10[1]
Number of appeals received	147	183	164	184	151
Number of appeals heard	26	26	12	17	27
Number of cases determined on paper and leave refused[2]	0	65	43	72	97
Proportion of successful appeals (%)	58	23	58	53	52

[1] Year to date
[2] Cases received in one year may be determined in a following year

The Ministry of Justice does not keep information on fees paid to the Lands Tribunal for each type of appeal and hearing. However, the total fees received for each year were:

Lands tribunal fees

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10[1]
Total fees (£)	262,262	398,564	417,879	332,943	220,103

[1] Year to date

The current planning forecast is that fees income in each year from 2010-11 to 2013-14 will be £300,000 per year. No forecast has been prepared beyond that date. The Ministry of Justice is currently reviewing responses to a consultation[1] which proposes an increase in current fee levels. However, current forecasts do not assume any increase in income.

[1] Review of fees for the Lands Tribunal (Ref: CP44/09 2 December 2009 - 28 February 2010).

Prison Accommodation: Wales

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of prison accommodation in Wales. [323397]

Maria Eagle: Our most recent assessment of prison accommodation in Wales was given to the Welsh Affairs Committee in November 2009. This highlighted that North Wales is an area of strategic need for prison places within the prison estate and we are conducting a site search for a new prison in this area as well as other areas of strategic need such as London and the south-east, West Yorkshire and the north-west. We are looking to increase capacity in South Wales through the provision of a further 330 prison places at HMP Parc.

Prisons: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to collate at national level the *(a)* quantity and *(b)* type of illicit drugs seized in prisons in England and Wales. [322870]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) collates the number and type of drug seizures in prisons. The number of drug seizures in prisons in England and Wales in 2008-09 is given in the following table. Many seizures are similar in appearance and where not attributable are not categorically identified by scientific analysis. Weight is not recorded and there are no plans to record it.

Drug	*Number of seizures*
Heroin	776
Cocaine	262
LSD	3
Amphetamines	94
Barbiturates	11
Cannabis	1,731
Tranquilisers	32
Other	2,160
Total	5,069

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Probation: Per Capita Costs

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the average cost of probation service supervision for an individual on a 12 month *(a)* anger management, *(b)* domestic violence and *(c)* sex offender programme. [323908]

Maria Eagle: The funding for the supervision of offenders and the delivery of programmes in the community is part of the general grant given to probation areas or trusts. The costs will vary and depend on a number of factors including the risk presented by the individual, the level of supervision required, the programme the individual attends, and the arrangements for delivery in the particular area. It is not possible to accurately disaggregate the cost of this work. Full costs of probation services will be collected and published to benchmark the whole of the probation system by the end of 2011.

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received a caution for an offence under section *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in each police force area in 2008. [322837]

Claire Ward: The number of offenders cautioned for offences under sections 1 and 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, by police force area in 2008 is shown in the following table.

Number of offenders cautioned[1, 2] for offences under sections 1 and 5 of the Sexual Offences Act: 2003[3], by police force area, England and Wales 2008[4]

Police force area	*Section1[1]*	*Section 5[5]*
Avon and Somerset	—	1
Cambridgeshire	—	4
Cleveland	—	1
Cumbria	1	—
Devon and Cornwall	2	1
Dorset	1	1
Essex	1	1
Kent	1	—
Lancashire	1	—
Leicestershire	—	1
Lincolnshire	1	1
Metropolitan Police	1	3
Nottinghamshire	1	2
Staffordshire	1	—
Suffolk	—	1
Sussex	1	—
Thames Valley	1	2
Warwickshire	—	2
West Midlands	—	1
Gwent	—	1
England and Wales	13	23

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These are included in the totals.
[3] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[5] Section 1 includes the following offences:
Rape of a female aged under 16.
Rape of a female aged 16 or over.
Rape of a male aged under 16.
Rape of a male aged 16 or over.
Attempted rape of a female aged under 16
Attempted rape of a female aged 16 or over.
Attempted rape of a male aged under 16.
Attempted rape of a male aged 16 or over.
[6] Section 5 includes the following offences:
Rape of a female child under 13 by a male.
Rape of a male child under 13 by a male.
Attempted rape of a female child under 13 by a male.
Attempted rape of a male child under 13 by a male.
Note:
A police force area not listed in the table means nil data.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Vetting: Charities

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether individuals with a past conviction for an offence of buggery are required to declare the conviction when applying to work with a charity involved with vulnerable people after the offence is *(a)* spent and *(b)* deleted; and if he will make a statement. [322868]

Claire Ward: The law currently requires individuals to declare all spent convictions where they are applying to work with vulnerable people as this is an area of activity falling within the Exceptions Order to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. This obligation applies even if the conviction has been deleted from the Police National Computer. We are aware that a conviction for buggery, before aspects of the offence were decriminalised, may relate to consensual homosexual conduct between adults. Therefore, it is our intention to bring forward an amendment to the Exceptions Order so that an individual does not have to disclose a conviction for buggery where this was for behaviour which has subsequently been decriminalised. However, elements of the offence of buggery under the Sexual Offences Act 1956 remain criminal today; therefore the amendment will not affect the obligation to declare a conviction for buggery where the behaviour which attracted the conviction would still be a criminal offence.

Voting Rights: Armed Forces

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects his Department to receive the report of the working group on the voting rights of members of the armed forces. [323657]

Mr. Wills: The working group meets on a regular basis, most recently in early March. I have written to parliamentary colleagues who attended the meeting on service voting in December to give an interim update from the working group and share the group's consideration of the suggestions made at that meeting. The Government are consulting on longer term options to support service personnel and their families to vote in elections, and I have also written to Opposition parties, asking that the parties sign up to the commitment to consult on a cross-party basis.

Voting Systems

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that implementation of the provisions proposed in Clause 90 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill does not result in the *(a)* ending of next-day counts in constituencies in which such counts are a long established practice and *(b)* counting of votes cast in several constituencies in a central location at the forthcoming general election. [323662]

Mr. Wills: Clause 90 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill was shared with Opposition representatives as it was developed, and was welcomed widely across the House. By requiring returning officers to take reasonable steps to start the counting of votes by 2 am and to give a reasoned account when they fail to do so, the clause creates a clear expectation that, in line with the clearly expressed view of Parliament on this issue, the counting of votes should start by 2 am, where possible.

It is particularly important for the purposes of the new duty that returning officers look carefully at existing arrangements and past practice and consider the additional steps which they can reasonably take in order to start the counting of votes given on ballot papers by 2 am. Past practice is not necessarily a guide to whether the duty to take all reasonable steps to start the count by 2 am will have been fulfilled. Clause 90 would preserve the operational independence of the returning officer, while providing fresh impetus towards counting votes as quickly as possible. In striking this balance, clause 90 respects the important discretion of the returning officer to make decisions to take account of local circumstances, such as the particular geography of a constituency. In this way, the location of the count remains a matter for the returning officer in each case, taking into account both the legislative framework and local circumstances.

Youth Justice: Finance

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 703W, on Youth Justice: finance, how much expenditure was re-charged from the Youth Justice Board by the National Offender Management Service Service Development Group in respect of administration costs in 2009-10. [323660]

Maria Eagle: The Youth Justice Board has provided the National Offender Management Service's (NOMS) Service Development Group with £118.180 million of funding to deliver about 2,400 custodial places and associated services for all young men aged 15 to 17 and 17-year-old young women during the 2009-10 period. This includes £5.070 million for corporate overheads and £2.548 million for the NOMS Young People's Team.

TREASURY

Boilers: Government Assistance

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to discuss providing more funding for the boiler scrappage scheme. [323176]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The pre-Budget report announced £50 million to fund a £400 incentive to help up to 125,000 residential consumers who live in owned or privately rented homes in England to upgrade their boiler.

Treasury Ministers meet with colleagues regularly to discuss a range of issues as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Departmental Computer Software

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) of 1 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 916W, on departmental ICT, what fonts were purchased by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs; and what consideration was given to using fonts available in software packages already in use in each. [323536]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Disability Discrimination Act requires Departments to make their materials as accessible as possible and accessibility research suggests that serif fonts are more difficult to read. For the Treasury the existing fonts on the system were examined and none met the accessibility requirements. The core Treasury font was therefore changed to a sans serif font, Humanist 777, ensuring Treasury documents are more accessible.

HM Revenue and Customs purchased a package of font symbols and the cost includes licenses for all of the Department's designers (20 licences).

This new range adds to and updates the Department's library of font symbols to include more up to date images such as mobile phones, Blackberry and iPhone as these were not available in the original software package.

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department and its non-departmental body are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323073]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Meat and dairy products are provided to HM Treasury staff in London under a facilities management contract. In line with guidance from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, suppliers under this contract procure meat and dairy products which have been produced under industry welfare standards. Directly procured dairy products are also produced under appropriate industry standards.

Departmental Information Officers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* press officers and *(b)* communications staff were employed by his Department (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each such year. [310209]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The number of full-time equivalent press officers employed by HM Treasury is nine. In addition HM Treasury employs 22 staff working directly on publishing, digital communications, internal communications and strategic communications. Information on the costs for each year could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For information on press officers for the previous five years I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers given to the hon. Member for Tatton (Mr. Osborne) on 11 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 445W, my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 177W, the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 213W, the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 939W and the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, 546W.

Previous information on communication staff is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323661]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: On the announcement of a General Election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies, HM Revenue and Customs and the Valuation Office Agency spent on visits abroad by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in each of the last three years. [321175]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 8 March 2010]:* All travel undertaken by Ministers and civil servants is in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively. All spending on subsistence is made in accordance with the principles set out in "Managing Public Money".

The Government published a list of all overseas travel by Ministers costing over £500 on 16 July 2009, and this is available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to ensure that its database of contact details of former Equitable Life policy-holders eligible for payments under any payment scheme is accurate and up-to-date. [323356]

Mr. Byrne: Officials have been carrying out work on scheme design in parallel with Sir John Chadwick's work. Ensuring contact details are up to date and accurate is part of this work.

Industry: Private Sector Investment

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department made of the level of private sector investment in industry in real terms in *(a)* 1994, *(b)* 1999, *(c)* 2004 and *(d)* 2009. [322804]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking the level of private sector investment in industry in real terms in (a) 1994, (b) 1999, (c) 2004 and (d) 2009. (322804)

The attached table gives estimates of Business investment analysed by industrial sector for the years requested. The estimates are chained volume measures and are in 2005 prices. Estimates for other periods are given in the latest Business investment Statistical Bulletin which can be downloaded using this link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/bi0210.pdf

Business investment, industrial sector—chained volume measure, 2005 prices

£ million

	Private sector						
	Manufacturing	*Other production*	*Construction*	*Distribution services*	*Other services*	*Public corporations*	*Total business Investment*
1994	14454	13500	1205	7566	30677	3746	66944
1999	19552	13447	2101	12621	58691	2799	108894
2004	14534	9876	3979	18649	66975	3250	117047
2009	11,044	16,562	2,046	14,658	67,465	3,987	117,762

Source:
ONS Business Investment

Infrastructure UK: Legal Opinion

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria were used to select Linklaters as legal adviser to Infrastructure UK; how the contract for those services was advertised; how many other companies tendered for that contract; and what the monetary value is of that contract. [323345]

Ian Pearson: The requirement for legal services was competed under the Office of Government Commerce buying solutions "Legal Services - major projects (including complex, innovative PFI/PPP)" framework ref RM373/L8. The requirement was "advertised" via a collaborative Framework Agreement.

The following evaluation criteria were used:

Demonstrable capability of the team in the relevant areas, particularly strong, proven skills in public finance initiative/ public-private partnership lender advisory work on closed transactions.

Demonstrable capability to work with public sector authorities in the PFI/PPP sector

Capacity and strength in depth in the firm, to provide the necessary support as and when required

Costs/Fee proposal

Responses were received from eight firms, three of whom were invited to interview.

No monetary value was assigned to the contract. A schedule of hourly rates was agreed subject to staff seniority.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the reply from the Minister for the Cabinet Office dated 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 299W, on Members: correspondence, when he expects to reply to the letters of 10 December 2008 and 15 July 2009 which were transferred to his Department on 22 December 2008 and 22 July 2009. [323331]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Our records show a reply was sent to the hon. Member on 7 January 2009, however, a scanned copy of the reply was not retained. I have provided a replacement to the hon. Member.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the performance of the Valuation Office Agency in respect of the separate rating of port businesses. [323597]

Ian Pearson: The performance of the Valuation Office Agency has been considered in a Framework Review, conducted by an HMRC Director reporting to the Minister then responsible for the Agency, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury. It was also dealt with in the Government's response to the Treasury Select Committee's (TSC) First Report of Session 2008-09, Administration and expenditure of the Chancellor's Departments, 2007-08 (HC 35).

The Framework Review is available at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/framework_doc/voa-review-09.pdf

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many public houses there were on the Rating List in each local authority area in England in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010. [323199]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1303W, in respect of the 1997 data. Information for the draft 2010 Rating Lists was first published by the Valuation Office Agency on its website on 18 December 2009.

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/Table3-England_RV_by_scat_code.xls

Information for Public Houses can be found under:

Public Houses/Pub Restaurants (National Scheme)—SCAT 226

Public Houses/Pub Restaurants (Inc. Lodge) (National Scheme)—SCAT 227

Public Sector: Pensions

Natascha Engel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the net cost to the Exchequer was of public sector pensions in each year since 1980, expressed in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* 2010 prices. [321900]

Mr. Byrne: The net cost to the Exchequer (on a national accounts basis) of public service pensions for years 2003-04 to 2008-09 is shown in the "Contribution to TME" line of table D.1 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2009,

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa09.htm

Earlier years back to 1993-94 are available in previous editions of PESA. However, data in previous PESAs are not directly consistent with PESA 2009 due to changes in data coverage and classification changes and therefore are not presented on a comparable basis.

Data on other public sector schemes are not held centrally.

Revenue and Customs: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the outcome was of the moderation process in respect of relocation of HM Revenue and Customs customer operations staff from Lingmell House, Chorley; and if he will make a statement; [317911]

(2) what role *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs plays in the moderation process in respect of relocation of staff consequent on the closure of Lingmell House, Chorley; and if he will make a statement; [317913]

(3) what commitments HM Revenue and Customs management have made to customer operations staff at Lingmell House, Chorley; and if he will make a statement; [317916]

(4) on what dates HM Revenue and Customs wrote to customer operations staff at Lingmell House, Chorley to indicate an intention to move them to employment in a benefits and credits team; on what date HM Revenue and Customs wrote to their staff to rescind that intention; who was responsible for the reversal of that decision; if he will investigate the reasons for that reversal; and if he will make a statement. [319173]

Mr. Timms: Moderation formed part of the Human Resource (HR) procedures put in place by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to facilitate the redeployment of staff from its offices, including Chorley, affected by the decisions arising from the Regional Review Programme undertaken between 2006 and 2008.

The moderation process was developed by HMRC, in consultation with trade unions, to help staff and managers identify whether proposed redeployment options were within the pre-defined Reasonable Daily Travel limits. The process was agreed across the Department together with trade unions, with decisions taken at a local level within line management chains and with independent support and advice to ensure fairness and consistency. Moderation groups were established to make relocation decisions based upon information provided by staff during one-to-one meetings held with their managers.

As part of the moderation process each individual's case was considered individually and personal circumstances were taken into account when deciding if a move was within reasonable daily travelling time for the person concerned.

In February 2008 HMRC announced that Lingmell House would close with the expectation that staff working in customer operations would relocate with their work to customer operations strategic sites in Manchester or Bootle. In line with departmental guidance, customer operations staff working in Lingmell House were then considered for transfer to Manchester and Bootle.

Following one-to-one meetings between managers and staff, decisions were taken by a moderating panel as to whether it was reasonable for an individual to relocate to one of these sites within reasonable daily travel, taking their individual personal circumstances into account. Staff were notified of the outcome of this process by letter in April 2008.

In July 2008 a second moderation process was mistakenly carried out to consider moves for customer operations staff in the Chorley office to the Tax Credit Office in Preston. As an outcome of this moderation on 29 July 2008 HMRC wrote to customer operations staff at Lingmell House, Chorley, who were within reasonable daily travel of Preston, to indicate that they could be relocated to the Tax Credit Office at Preston.

The outcome of this second moderation is invalid, as it was not carried out in accordance with the processes agreed between HMRC and departmental trade unions. These processes required that Chorley customer operations staff be moderated within their own business stream—customer operations—and were therefore not eligible to be moderated with the tax credits office in Preston. Changes to the business and staffing requirements in the Tax Credit Office in the second half of 2008 resulted in recruitment of further staff stopping, with no likelihood of future vacancies in that location.

Those staff members unable to travel to their nearest customer operations strategic site at Manchester or Bootle were informed of this in an office meeting in March 2009 and issued with pre-surplus letters on 17 March 2009 to give them priority access to other jobs or to apply for early release schemes. This decision was taken by HMRC's senior regional manager for customer operations.

After being made surplus in January 2010 some Chorley customer operations staff and the local trade union representative contacted HMRC to clarify the position with regard to the letter they had received in July 2008 about transferring to TCO Preston. The regional director's support team replied giving more details as to why the second moderation process was invalid and apologised for the confusion and unwarranted expectations that had arisen as a result of this moderation.

At the time of the announcement on 13 January 2010 that Lingmell House would close during 2010-11, redeployment solutions had been found for 27 of the 39 staff working there. The announcement on 13 January

provided staff who were unable to relocate the option to volunteer for compulsory early severance or compulsory early retirement and leave the Department by 1 April.

HMRC will continue to help those staff who chose not to take up this option to find redeployment opportunities within the Department or in the wider civil service.

Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a detailed analysis of the remissions and write-offs included in the HM Revenue and Customs Trust Statement in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [323205]

Mr. Timms: Paragraph 8.2 Revenue losses on page 100 of HM Revenue and Customs 2008-09 Accounts, Trust Statement sets out the value of remissions and write-offs, by head of duty, for the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09. Case notes are also included providing the detail of large losses greater than £10 million.

HM Revenue and Customs' 2008-09 Accounts are available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0809.pdf

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish his Department's evaluation of the pilot exercises on the use of commercial debt collection agencies to collect debts owed to HM Revenue and Customs. [323217]

Mr. Timms: The final evaluation of the small scale pilot to test the use of commercial debt collection agencies to collect debts owed to HM Revenue and Customs has not yet been completed.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated monetary value of smuggled cigarettes, tobacco and tobacco-related products which were seized was in each year since 1997. [321893]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data relating to the estimated value of smuggled tobacco products seized by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, and latterly the UK Border Agency, are only available going back to 2003.

Estimates of the total value i.e. the value of the goods and associated tax, in each year since 2003 are:

Goods and tax values of tobacco seizures border

Total (£ million)

	Financial year					
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Goods value	44.1	43.1	49	53.8	48.5	50.1
Tax	170.1	165	206.1	224.6	213.6	191.9
Total	214.2	208.1	255.1	278.5	262.2	242.1

Tax Allowances: Housing

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* UK taxpayers and *(b)* hon. Members who varied the nomination of a main residence in order to obtain private residence relief from capital gains tax in each of the last 10 years. [323000]

Mr. Timms: No such estimate has been made.

Taxation

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to reduce the tax gaps in *(a)* stamp duty land tax, *(b)* income tax, *(c)* corporation tax and *(d)* excise duties. [323206]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have set out its compliance strategy and approach to reducing tax gaps in 'Protecting Tax Revenues 2009', which was published alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report and is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/protect-tax-revenue-5450.pdf

Taxation: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average cash value was of *(a)* valued added tax and *(b)* alcohol duty charged on a pint of standard (i) lager, (ii) bitter and (iii) cider in each year since 1997. [323575]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The average cash value of value added tax and alcohol duty charged on a pint of lager, pint of bitter and a litre of cider can be found in Section 3 of the HM Revenue and Customs Alcohol Factsheet, available at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factalcohol

The latest available annual data relate to 2009.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people completed their tax return forms using *(a)* online and *(b)* printed forms in January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [323931]

Mr. Timms: The number of 2008-09 Self Assessment tax returns filed online or in paper format by 31 January 2010 is shown in the following table:

	2008-09 returns	Percentage of total received
Online	6,429,899	75
Paper	2,143,753	25

Valuation Office Agency: Contracts

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which company or companies have been awarded HM Revenue and Customs contracts, reference 2009/S 200-288191, for the provision of residential property data to the Valuation Office Agency. [323153]

Ian Pearson: This contract has not yet been awarded.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 522W, on the Valuation Office: contracts, how much was spent with Experian in 2008-09; what datasets were purchased by the Valuation Office Agency; and for what purposes. [323192]

Ian Pearson: Costs in relation to Experian in 2008-09, which related to mapping materials for non-domestic property valuations, were £57,055.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 522W, on the Valuation Office: contracts, how much was spent with *(a)* Rightmove.co.uk, *(b)* Bodens, *(c)* Blue Starfish, *(d)* Bocadillos, *(e)* Brown's, *(f)* Chelsea Football Club, *(g)* Conflict Management Plus Ltd., *(h)* Euro RSCG Riley and *(i)* ZSL London Zoo in 2008-09; what goods and services were purchased; and for what purposes. [323196]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) spent £776,250 with Rightmove in relation to acquiring property sales data, £271 for publications with Bodens, £9,055 for training staff with Blue Starfish, £1,954 for catering and refreshments with Bocadillos, £2,673 for catering and refreshments with Browns, £293 for training with Conflict Management Plus Ltd., £23,634 for graduate surveyor recruitment and advertising with Euro RSCG Riley, and £3,200 for conference facilities with ZSL London Zoo. VOA did not incur any costs in relation to Chelsea Football Club.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which company or companies have been awarded the Valuation Office Agency contract for property data to replace the previous Rightmove.co.uk contract. [323577]

Ian Pearson: This contract has not yet been awarded.

Valuation: Caravan Sites

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the policy of the Valuation Office Agency is on valuing illegal encampments and Traveller camps for *(a)* council tax and *(b)* business rates; and for how many months such a dwelling or hereditament may exist before it is rated. [323444]

Ian Pearson: Where caravans are sole or main residences and the use of the site is not merely transitory, then either the land as a whole or the individual caravan pitches are liable to be banded for council tax, according to the facts of each case.

Where land is used for caravans which are not sole or main residences, and the occupation is not merely transitory it will be non-domestic and subject to a non-domestic rateable value.

There is no minimum period defined by statute in either case and each situation will be treated on its own merits. However, where a Traveller's caravan occupies a non-established pitch for a period materially less than 12 months, with no sign of likely return, this will generally be regarded as too transient to establish the pitch as a dwelling. The legality of the occupation is not relevant: it is the period of occupation that is considered.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by her Department and its non-departmental bodies are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323078]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has a private finance initiative contract for the provision of fully serviced accommodation which includes catering. The contract is with Telereal Trillium and their catering services supplier is Eurest (part of the Compass Group UK and Ireland). Since 2003, the Department has been working with these suppliers, actively pursuing a Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative action plan and one of the key objectives of this Initiative is to raise farming standards.

Compass Group has confirmed that they endorse the Farm Animal Welfare Council's Five Freedoms concept and provide full traceability of products and suppliers within their approved supply chain to ensure animals reared for meat, fish, milk and eggs are raised to high standards of animal welfare.

Compass Group has also confirmed a long-standing commitment to source its seafood as sustainably as possible. They were the first food service company to achieve the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Chain of Custody certification enabling them to serve certified sustainable, MSC labelled seafood choices. Within the DWP contract many of their sites are buying products to these standards and promotional activities are run to encourage DWP staff to purchase the more ethically sourced products.

The information requested in respect of DWP's non-departmental bodies is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Legal Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department and its predecessors have spent in *(a)* legal fees and *(b)* compensation on legal cases concerning remuneration of its employees in each of the last 10 years. [322065]

Jonathan Shaw: Cases for DWP are conducted both in-house and by agents acting on behalf of the Department. The information requested in respect of legal fees concerning remuneration of its employees and compensation on legal cases also concerning remuneration of its employees in each of the last 10 years is not readily available. It would involve a detailed examination of individual records held by the DWP (London and Leeds office) and from external sources from the last ten years. The information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from her Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322067]

Jonathan Shaw: In accordance with guidance from HM Treasury, the Department maintains records of certain high-value property that it owns, such as specialist equipment and plant and machinery. In the past two years, no items recorded on the register have been reported as lost or stolen.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to her Department is of the agreements it has entered into with mobile telephone operators to provide free calls to the Department's 0800 numbers from a mobile telephone. [319980]

Jonathan Shaw: The mobile telephone operators in question are charging the Department on the basis of a discounted per minute-rate. The Department estimates that the overall cost of the scheme will, on current volumes, be less than £10 million per annum. This will be offset by reduced costs of call back by the Department at a higher rate and the associated staff costs.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants received awards of disability living allowance on the basis of drug or alcohol dependency in the latest period for which figures are available. [316777]

Jonathan Shaw: Entitlement to disability living allowance is not dependent on a diagnosis or condition but relies instead on the care and/or mobility needs arising. In the case of someone with drug or alcohol dependency, needs may arise as a result of their substance dependence or a physical or mental complication caused by drugs or alcohol. Many people with drug or alcohol dependency may also have a mental health condition.

The number of disability living allowance cases in payment where the main disabling condition is recorded as drug and alcohol abuse, which will represent a subset of all disability living allowance claimants with a drug or alcohol dependency, at August 2009 is 22,000.

Notes:

1. The figures are rounded to the nearest hundred and have been uprated to be consistent with Work and Pensions Longitudinal Survey data.

2. The figure shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

3. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.

4. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to disability living allowance. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes. For example, a customer would not be awarded disability living allowance on the basis of a diagnosis of drug/alcohol abuse. The decision is based upon the care/supervision and difficulty getting around as a result of the substance dependency and any associated physical or psychological complications.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample.

Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Manchester, Gorton constituency, the effects on that constituency of her Department's policies since 2 May 1997. [322134]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP leads the Government's response to some of the biggest issues facing the country—welfare and pension reform—and is a key player in tackling child poverty[1]. As the biggest delivery Department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. We want to give people more choice and control over their lives and are committed to providing greater choice and personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work. We believe that work works. Even in economically challenging times we know that work works for the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since January 1998, the number of people unemployed in Manchester, Gorton has decreased by 10 per cent. to 3,891, and the number unemployed for more than one year has decreased by 63 per cent. to 515. From August 1997 to August 2009 the number of lone parents claiming income support in Manchester, Gorton has decreased by 44 per cent. to 1,890.

Our New Deals have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over 50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception over 2.2 million people in Great Britain have found work with the support of the New Deal, and 6,060 have been helped in Manchester, Gorton.

Support for children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the numbers of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level.

Support for older people

Since 1997 our strategy has been to target help on the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will be spending over £13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with the policies that were in place in 1997. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997 the poorest pensioners, who received income support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, £198.45 for couples. As of August 2009, 5,830 pensioners in Manchester, Gorton are benefiting from pension credit.

In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty in UK compared to 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs).

Statistics on the proportion of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at the constituency level. But the latest data for the north-west Government office region show that the proportion of pensioners in poverty (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs) fell from 28 per cent. to 18 per cent. since 1997[2].

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the winter fuel payment which for winter 2009-10 is worth £250 for households with someone aged between 60 to 79 and £400 for households with someone aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98 less than £60 million per year was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills—we now spend around £2.7 billion on winter fuel payments alone. In winter 2008-09 (the last winter for which information is available) 10,010 people aged 60 and over benefited from winter fuel payments in Manchester, Gorton.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people can continue to have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the Financial Assistance Scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people are not left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

In total 2,167 people in the north-west Government office region are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at constituency level)[3].

We have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three quarters of women reaching state pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic state pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in Manchester, Gorton will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents who are entitled to state support, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. This will be trailblazed in eight local authority sites from late 2010. Older and less well off carers have gained extra help through the provisions within the National Carers Strategy.

[1] The Department for Work and Pensions was created in 2001 and so information relates to the Department and its predecessors.

[2] Based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 pensioners between 1997-98 to1999-00 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[3] Regional information about assistance payments received by members from the Financial Assistance Scheme could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will take steps to ensure that changes to the calculation of the rates of local housing allowance do not result in a loss of income for claimants. [322397]

Helen Goodman: On 15 December 2009 the Department for Work and Pensions launched its housing benefit consultation exercise: 'Supporting people into work: the next stage of Housing Benefit reform'. The consultation concluded on 22 February 2010. The Department will consider the detailed policy design of any new measures, including any changes to the calculation of local housing allowance rates, once it has considered all responses.

The local housing allowance was rolled out from 7 April 2008 and is a more transparent way of calculating the rent element of housing benefit for people living in the deregulated private rented sector. The local authority uses the appropriate local housing allowance rate, based on the area where the person lives and the size of their household, to determine the maximum amount to be included in the housing benefit calculation. This rate is currently based on the median of rents within the local area. However, customers in some areas have benefited more than others from the local housing allowance, and high rents in some areas have driven up benefit rates. As part of its consultation exercise, the Department for Work and Pensions asked its stakeholders for input into how local housing allowance rates should be set in future to ensure customers can afford decent but not luxurious accommodation.

Jobcentre Plus: Redundancy Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Jobcentre Plus spent on redundancy payments in 2008-09; and what proportion of staff costs such expenditure represented. [321362]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question asking how much Jobcentre Plus spent on redundancy payments in 2008-09; and what proportion of staff costs such expenditure represented. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There have been no compulsory redundancies in Jobcentre Plus, and wherever possible we would seek some form of voluntary release. In 2008/09 there were early departures of staff approved, and the cost of these departures are shown in the table below.

	2008/09
Early departure costs (£ million)	11
Proportion of staff costs (percentage)	0.6

Source:
Departmental financial systems

Early departure costs can be either early retirement or voluntary severance. These relate to staff where posts have been removed due to modernisation and efficiency measures and no suitable re-deployment opportunities existed or were likely to emerge.

I hope this information is helpful.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average time between application and payment was for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* income support in each month of the last two years; [321452]

(2) what the average processing time of applications for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* income support was in each benefit delivery centre in each month of the last two years. [321455]

Helen Goodman: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking (i) what the average time between application and payment was for (a) jobseeker's allowance and (b) income support in each month of the last two years and (ii) what the average processing time of applications for (a) jobseeker's allowance and (b) income support claims in each benefit delivery centre in each month of the last two years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We cannot measure when the customer actually receives their first payment. The payment will be issued, if the customer is eligible, on the date a letter of eligibility is issued from our system. It is then either through the banking clearance system for the relevant bank/building society, or Post Office Card Account to make the actual monies available to the customer or for the postal system to deliver a cheque payment for the customer to cash.

Jobcentre Plus has formally published targets for the average actual clearance time (AACT) taken to process Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support claims. AACT is calculated from our benefit processing system and is a result of taking all the claim volumes processed within any given month against the total number of days each claim has taken to process. The system conducts a simple division calculation using these data sets to provide us with the AACT.

The time used to calculate the AACT for the 2 benefits differs slightly;

For Jobseeker's Allowance the two dates used to calculate this average are from the initial date of customer contact i.e. their call to one of our Contact Centres or the first date of unemployment (whichever is the later) to the date a decision is made on their claim and a letter of eligibility is issued to them.

For Income Support the two dates used to calculate the AACT are from the date the customer provides all the evidence required to process the claim to the date a decision is made.

For each benefit the AACT in days was as follows:

	Income support	*Jobseeker's allowance*
2005-06	12	12
2006-07	11	12
2007-08	11	12
2008-09	10	11.5
2009-10	10	11.5

I have arranged to have placed in the House of Commons Library the Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support AACT data for the last two years.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claims took more than 12 days to process in each benefit delivery centre in each month of the last two years. [321471]

Helen Goodman: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claims took more than 12 days to process in each benefit delivery centre in each month of the last two years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Our management information system does not hold data specifically relating to JSA claims taking more than 12 days to process.

National Employment Savings Trust

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the lessons to be learned from other Government IT projects in the delivery of services for the National Employment Savings Trust by the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority. [321845]

Angela Eagle: The Department's Enabling Retirement Savings Programme, which is responsible for delivering the workplace pension reforms has used internal and external expertise to ensure robust delivery of IT programmes, including regular contact with the Office of Government Commerce, about IT project management both in the public and private sectors over the course of the last year, the causes of project failure and the lessons that could be learned from previous Government IT projects.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 57-8WS, on National Employment Savings Trust (NEST), if she will place in the Library a copy of the terms and conditions of the proposed Government loan to NEST. [323770]

Angela Eagle: The terms and conditions of the loan agreement between my Department and the NEST Corporation will not be finalised until after the NEST Corporation has been established.

Once finalised, I will make public the terms and conditions of the agreement, taking into account any areas that are considered to be commercially sensitive.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 57-58WS, on National Employment Savings Trust (NEST), over what time period she expects the proposed Government loan to NEST to be repaid. [323771]

Angela Eagle: The period in which the loan to NEST Corporation will be repaid will ultimately depend on a variety of factors, including the final costs of NEST and the size and nature of its membership. We anticipate that the total loan period, including the years in which NEST borrows from Government and the subsequent repayments, will last in the region of 20 years.

Pension Protection Fund

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations she has received from small companies on the recent changes to the Pensions Protection Fund levy. [323658]

Angela Eagle: I have received correspondence from individuals, small businesses and parliamentarians. Concerning the pension protection levy and had discussions with groups representing small businesses. The determination of the pension protection levy is a matter for the Board of the Pension Protection Fund who consult stakeholders annually on proposed changes.

Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate she has made of the effect on the level of annual expenditure by her Department of an increase in the trivial commutation limit for stranded pensions in line with *(a)* earnings and *(b)* inflation in each of the next three years; [319772]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect on entitlement to income-related benefits of an annual increase in the trivial commutation limit in line with *(a)* earnings and *(b)* inflation in each of the next three years; [319773]

(3) whether she plans to increase the level of capital disregard in respect of a trivially-commuted stranded pension pot. [319774]

Angela Eagle: No estimates of the effect on income-related benefits of increasing the trivial commutation limit in line with earnings or inflation have been made.

From November 2009 we have increased the amount of capital completely ignored in the calculation of pension credit and housing and council tax benefit for pensioners from £6,000 to £10,000. This change will benefit around 500,000 pensioners and will mean around 88 per cent. of pension credit recipients will have all of their capital ignored in their pension credit assessment.

Poverty: Children

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in City of York constituency were living in poverty *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [322124]

Helen Goodman: Between 1998-09 and 2007-08 some 500,000 children were lifted out of relative poverty. Measures announced in and since Budget 2007 will lift around 550,000 children out of poverty. Absolute poverty has been halved.

The Child Poverty Bill will bring new impetus to eradicating child poverty by 2020. It will provide a definition of success and sets a framework to guarantee that Government and their partners at national and local levels make a clear and vital contribution towards ending child poverty.

Estimates of poverty, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in poverty at Government office region level. Therefore, information for the City of York is not available, though figures relating to Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region are. These are given in the table.

Three-year averages are used to report regional statistics as single-year estimates are subject to volatility. Figures are quoted rounded to the nearest hundred thousand children. Child poverty is presented before housing costs in line with the child poverty public service agreements.

Number of children in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median for Yorkshire and the Humber, before housing costs

Period	*Number of children (million)*
1997-98 to 1999-2000	0.4
2005-06 to 2007-08	0.3

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data. The Households Below Average Income series is available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. The figures are based on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development equalisation factors.
6. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

A local child poverty indicator—including constituency level information—has been developed that captures the number and proportion of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits, or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent. of median income. Details can be found via the HM Revenue and Customs website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm

The measure enables local partners to make an assessment of the level and geographical distribution of income deprivation in their area and focuses local partners on taking action to help raise family incomes.

Poverty: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of *(a)* the general population, *(b)* children and *(c)* pensioners in Milton Keynes was living in poverty in each year since 1997. [321868]

Helen Goodman: The Government strongly believe that the best way to tackle adult poverty is through work. Those in work in the long term are better off than on benefits as training, promotion and career opportunities can enable many workers to attain a better standard of living for themselves and their families. We are therefore placing an increased priority on helping all groups of people, including disabled people and those with health conditions, lone parents and long term unemployed people get into rewarding and sustainable jobs.

The Government's declared aim is to eradicate child poverty by 2020. Our determination to do so is as firm as ever and this is demonstrated by introducing the Child Poverty Bill. The Child Poverty Bill will bring new impetus to eradicating child poverty by 2020. It will provide a definition of success and sets a framework to guarantee that Government and its partners at national and local levels make a clear and vital contribution towards ending child poverty.

Between 1998-9 and 2007-8 some 500,000 children were lifted out of relative poverty. Measures announced in and since Budget 2007 are expected to lift around a further 550,000 children out of poverty. Absolute poverty has been halved.

Addressing pensioner poverty has been a priority for this Government. We have targeted help on the poorest pensioners, those who need it most, while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

With the help of targeted support and additional funding there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty (after housing costs) in 2007-08 than in 1998-99.

Estimates of poverty, published in the households below average income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in poverty at Government Office Region level. Therefore, information for Milton Keynes is not available, though figures relating to the South East Government Office Region are. These are given in the tables.

Poverty for all individuals is presented both before and after housing costs. Child poverty is presented before housing costs and pensioner poverty is presented After housing costs, in line with the relevant Public Service Agreements. The most commonly used figures relate to those with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income for the three groups.

Three-year averages are used to report regional statistics as single-year estimates are subject to volatility. Figures are quoted rounded to the nearest percentage point. The tables show the percentage of all individuals (Table 1), children (Table 2) and pensioners (Table 3) in the South East Government Office Region who have incomes below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income.

Table 1: Proportion of individuals in households with incomes below 60 per cent of contemporary median for the South East, before and after housing costs

	Proportion of individuals (%)	
	Before housing costs	After housing costs
1997-98 to 1999-2000	13	19
1998-99 to 2000-01	13	19
1999-2000 to 2001-02	13	18
2000-01 to 2002-03	12	18
2001-02 to 2003-04	12	18
2002-03 to 2004-05	12	17
2003-04 to 2005-06	12	17
2004-05 to 2006-07	13	18
2005-06 to 2007-08	13	19

Table 2: Proportion of children in households with incomes below 60 per cent of contemporary median for the South East, before housing costs

	Proportion of children before housing costs (%)
1997-98 to 1999-2000	16
1998-99 to 2000-01	15
1999-2000 to 2001-02	15
2000-01 to 2002-03	14
2001-02 to 2003-04	13
2002-03 to 2004-05	13
2003-04 to 2005-06	13
2004-05 to 2006-07	15
2005-06 to 2007-08	15

Table 3: Proportion of pensioners in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median for the South East, after housing costs

	Proportion of pensioners after housing costs (%)
1997-98 to 1999-2000	26
1998-99 to 2000-01	24
1999-2000 to 2001-02	24
2000-01 to 2002-03	23
2001-02 to 2003-04	22
2002-03 to 2004-05	19
2003-04 to 2005-06	16
2004-05 to 2006-07	16
2005-06 to 2007-08	16

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income data. The households below average income series is available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for households below average income figures is single financial years. These sample years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measure used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. The figures are based on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development equivalisation factors.
6. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are.
7. Proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

A local child poverty indicator—including constituency level information—has been developed that captures the number and proportion of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits, or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent. of median income. Details can be found via the HM Revenue and Customs website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm

The measure enables local partners to make an assessment of the level and geographical distribution of income deprivation in their area and focuses local partners on taking action to help raise family incomes.

Remploy: Factories

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of Government procurement contracts were let to *(a)* Remploy factories and *(b)* other Government-assisted factories in each of the last three years. [317587]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP does not centrally hold information on Government spend with Remploy or other assisted factories and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost. However, DWP has spent £2.6 million with Remploy through procurement contracts since April 2008.

Social Security Benefits

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time of applications for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* housing benefit, *(c)* a crisis loan, *(d)* a community care grant and *(e)* a budgeting loan was in (i) each of the smallest geographical areas for which information is available and (ii) the UK in each quarter of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [321454]

Helen Goodman: Information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The available information has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus has a formal target for the average actual clearance time (AACT) taken to process jobseeker's allowance claims. The two dates used to calculate this average are from the initial date of a customer's contact i.e. their call to a Jobcentre Plus contact centre to the date a decision is made on their claim and a letter of eligibility is issued to them.

Jobseeker's allowance data for 2005-06 are recorded down to district level. From 2006-07 the data are recorded at benefit delivery centre level which is now the smallest geographical area that can be provided. Jobcentre Plus does not hold quarterly AACT figures.

Housing benefit information has been provided from 2003-04 to 2007-08; the data quality for 2008-09 was not high enough for publication. The Department has been working with local authorities to improve data quality. This month we intend to publish processing time information for April to September 2009, for between 270 and 300 local authorities whose data meets Official Statistics standards.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance in each quarter since April 2008. [320141]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the tables.

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants each quarter since May 2008—Great Britain and abroad

Quarter	Claimants (thousand)
2008	
May	2,637.56
August	2,632.00
November	2,593.01
2009	
February	2,468.62
May	2,374.21
August	2,299.58

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. From 6 April 2001, no new claims to severe disablement allowance were accepted. In addition from 27 October 2008, no new claims to incapacity benefit were also accepted.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Employment and support allowance caseload quarterly time series—Great Britain and abroad

Quarter	Claimants (thousand)
2008	
November	53.77
2009	
February	175.81
May	288.27
August	374.44

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten and displayed in thousands.
2. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged over 65 years with terminal cancer receive *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance under special rules. [322165]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is as follows.

Number of attendance allowance and disability allowance special rules cases over 65 where the main disabling condition is malignant diseases at August 2009

	Number
Attendance Allowance	200
Disability Living Allowance	5,100

Notes:
1. Figures have been rated to agree with Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.

Caution:
The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of Disability Living Allowance claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5 per cent. sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100 per cent. total for the benefit.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether existing claimants of disability living allowance aged under 65 years will be able to continue to receive disability living allowance or the equivalent cash level of support when they reach 65 under the proposals for disability benefits which form part of the Government's planned social care reforms. [323493]

Jonathan Shaw: If any disability benefits for older people are reformed as part of the National Care Service, those receiving the affected benefits at the time of reform would continue to receive the same level of cash support. We will give more details about the National Care Service in due course.

Streatham

Keith Hill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Streatham constituency, the effects on that constituency of changes to her Department's policies since 1997. [313390]

Jonathan Shaw: As the biggest delivery Department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. The policies that we have introduced since 1997 have aimed to give people more choice and control over their lives. Through our welfare reform programme, we are committed to providing personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work.

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since 1997, the number of people unemployed in Streatham has decreased by 18 per cent. to 4,594, and the number unemployed for more than one year has decreased by 64 per cent. to 725. From May 1997 to May 2009 the number of lone parents claiming income support in Streatham has decreased by 37 per cent. to 2,540.

Our New Deal programmes have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over 50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception over 2.2 million people in the UK have found work with the support of the New Deal, and 6,070 have been helped in Streatham.

Support for children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the numbers of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level, but the latest information for the Inner London area shows that the proportion of children in poverty has fallen from 39 per cent. to 27 per cent. since 1997[1].

Support for older people

Since 1997 our strategy has been to target extra help at the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will spend over £13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with the policies that were in place in 1997. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997 the poorest pensioners, who received income support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, or £198.45 for couples. As of May 2009, 4,850 pensioners in Streatham are receiving pension credit.

In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty in the UK than in 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs). Statistics on the numbers of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at constituency level, but the latest information for the Inner London area shows that the proportion of pensioners in poverty has fallen from 42 per cent. to 29 per cent. since 1997[2].

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the winter fuel payments which this winter is worth £250 for households aged between 60 to 79 and £400 for households aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98 less than £60 million was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills—this year we will be spending around £2.7 billion on winter fuel payments alone. In 2008-09, 12,410 people aged 60 and over benefited from winter fuel payments in Streatham.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the Financial Assistance Scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people are not left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

In total 423 people in the London area are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at constituency level)[3].

We have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three-quarters of women reaching state pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic state pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in Streatham will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. Older and less well-off carers are receiving extra help through the provisions within the National Carers Strategy.

[1] Based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 children between 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[2] Based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest percentage point or 100,000 pensioners between 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[3] Regional information about assistance payments received by members from the Financial Assistance Scheme could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to tackle poppy farming in Afghanistan. [323851]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have been dramatic falls in opium cultivation in Afghanistan in recent years—19 per cent. in 2008 and 22 per cent. in 2009. This year, despite a collapse in the price of wheat, the levels of opium cultivation is likely to bè stable. Farmers have chosen not to go back to cultivating opium. They are responding to improvements in governance and security and to continuing concerns over food security.

The Government are supporting the Helmand Counter Narcotic Plan led by Governor Mangal. The plan aims to reduce poppy cultivation and demonstrate governance in Helmand. It launched in 2008 with the distribution of free wheat seed to 32,000 farmers across the province. This year, the plan has distributed wheat seed to 37,500 farmers, saplings and vines to 1,400 farmers, and will distribute summer crops (such as alfa, okra and mung beans) to 27,000 farmers.

Afghanistan: Elections

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the conditions faced by female parliamentary candidates in Afghanistan in the forthcoming parliamentary elections in that country. [323552]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Afghanistan is a young democracy, and elections are taking place in difficult circumstances. We recognise the particular challenges faced by female candidates. The UK funds a range of programmes in Afghanistan to encourage the Afghan Government to promote women's equal participation in governance and to build awareness of women's rights among civil society and policy makers. We continue to urge the Afghan Government to uphold the constitution, which demands equal treatment of men and women.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with officials of the Government in Afghanistan on the presidential decree in February 2010 on Afghan electoral law regarding the requirement for a quota of female parliamentarians in the Afghan Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [323551]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are in regular contact with the Government of Afghanistan and have discussed the presidential decree at length. We understand that the changes to Afghan electoral law enacted by the decree do not affect the quota of parliamentary seats reserved for women, but the process for filling these seats if they are empty. Previously where there were fewer female candidates than there were seats reserved for women, the remaining seats were left empty. The decree allows these seats to be filled by men after an election, rather than remaining empty. We will continue to discuss this issue with the Government of Afghanistan.

Burma: Nuclear Power

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of Burma's *(a)* nuclear capability and *(b)* ability to produce uranium; and if he will make a statement. [323622]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware of recent media reporting suggesting that Burma is seeking to develop its nuclear capability. We take such issues very seriously, and remind all states to adhere to their obligations under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and all relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with his EU counterparts on the matter of possible nuclear co-operation between Burma and North Korea; and if he will make a statement. [323623]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware of recent media reports suggesting that North Korea and Burma are expanding their military relationship. We regularly raise concerns regarding North Korean nuclear proliferation in discussions with EU counterparts, as well as with states involved in the Six-Party Talks process. The UK continues to urge all countries, including Burma, to respect their obligations under United Nations Security Council resolutions 1718 and 1874.

China: Religious Freedom

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed the case of Mr Gao Zhisheng with the Chinese Government; and if he will make a statement. [323748]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the case of Gao Zhisheng with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi during his recent visit to

China. Yang denied that Gao had been tortured or his rights violated, but provided no further information on his case. Later, at a press conference, Yang said that Gao had been sentenced to prison on subversion charges. He gave no details of the charges against Gao, or the length of his sentence.

We remain concerned about the case of Gao Zhisheng and the continuing uncertainty over his whereabouts. I released a statement on 3 February urging the Chinese Government to provide accurate information on Gao's situation to ease the concerns of his family and friends and to provide reassurance about his condition. The EU also issued a statement, expressing their concerns over Gao's disappearance on 9 February. We will continue to raise his case at every appropriate opportunity.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on office refurbishments in each of the last 10 years. [320467]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the reply my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1200W.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spent £14,049,000 in 2007, £2,254,000 in 2008 and £7,061,411 in 2009 on refurbishments to offices in its buildings in the UK.

Information relating to refurbishment of offices on the FCO's overseas estate is not held centrally, and on the UK estate prior to 2007 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in his Department in each of the last five years. [320480]

Chris Bryant: For 2005-07, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1657W.

Officials have reviewed these figures and have established that the answer was incorrect.

Our current records show that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office paid the following amounts to special advisers in reimbursable expenses for the financial calendar years 2005 to 2010.

Amounts paid to special advisers

Financial year	£
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	761.52
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	467.81
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	1,923.21
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	2,307.69
1 April 2009 to March 2010 (to date)	1,388.24

India: Christianity

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implementation by the Government of India of the recommendations made in the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief of 26 January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [323286]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Beliefs report of 26 January 2009 have been used as a point of reference for India's compliance with international conventions during the most recent EU-India Human Rights Dialogue in February 2009, when the issue of freedom of religion or belief in relation to minority rights was discussed with Indian officials. We will continue to raise the issue of minority rights, including the right to freedom of religion and belief with the appropriate Indian authorities as part of the ongoing EU-India Human Rights Dialogue.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the steps taken by the Government of Orissa state *(a)* to address the causes of the communal violence in 2008 and *(b)* to bring the perpetrators and inciters of such violence to justice. [323287]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The communal violence in 2008 was caused by a range of complex socio-economic issues. The Orissa State Government has taken a number of steps to prevent further communal violence. A draft Prevention of Communal Violence Bill to provide for the prevention and control of communal violence, the speedy investigation and trial of cases and rehabilitation of victims has been introduced to the Upper House. The State Government commissioned a judicial probe led by Justice Mohapatra to look into the causes of violence. They have also taken steps to improve the security and delivery of justice to victims and the local authorities have set up fast track courts for the cases brought against the perpetrators of the violence.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the outcome of the visit to Orissa state of a delegation of the EU delegation to India; and whether *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the EU plans any follow-up action to assist in community reconciliation. [323288]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The EU delegation visited Orissa from 2-5 February and met Government and police officials, civil society and victims in Bhubaneswar and Kandhamal. They noted that local authorities have made some progress on rehabilitation and resettlement, and continue to work to address displacement and justice issues. The EU delegation also identified cross-community peace-building initiatives and improving the capacity of victims lawyers as important areas to address.

The EU delegation investigated what action was being taken towards community reconciliation in their discussions with the Government authorities and civil society. They

were informed of a range of activities such as street theatre, music, vocational, and educational initiatives focusing on building lasting peace between the communities. Peace and national integration camps have also been set up and a peace initiative called 'Antaranga' involving more than 150 youth organisations from all the local communities has also been established with the support of non-governmental organisations. The delegation are assessing the outcomes of their visit, including the question of follow-up.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken during the last six months and *(b)* plans to take during the next six months to tackle the shipment of weapons and funds from Iran to (i) Afghanistan, (ii) Iraq, (iii) Lebanon and (iv) Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [323129]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have serious concerns about Iranian support for Iraqi militia groups, the Taliban, Hezbollah, Hamas and other Palestinian rejectionist groups, including weapons, funds and training. This is unacceptable. It further undermines international confidence in the Iranian regime's intentions, and is at odds with the regime's claim to the international community and its own people that it supports stability in the middle east and Afghanistan.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps at the United Nations he *(a)* has taken since November 2009 and *(b)* plans to take in the next six months to seek to prevent (i) weapons and (ii) funds from the government of Iran being sent to terrorist groups in (A) Afghanistan, (B) Iraq, (C) Gaza and (d) Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [323130]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We continue to urge Iran to comply with international law, including UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs). Iran's transfers of weapons to the groups mentioned are contrary to UNSCRs 1737, 1747,1803, 1701 (Hezbollah) and 1860 (Gaza). Such behaviour further undermines international confidence in Iran.

We continue to give our full support to the UN Sanctions Committee in pursuing and investigating sanctions violations. Following a series of sanctions violations by Iran in 2009 (including the interdictions of weapons from Iran on the Hansa India, Monchegorsk and Francop vessels), the UN Sanctions Committee on Iran issued an Implementation Assistance Notice in January 2010. This urged all UN member states to be especially alert to further violations, in particular to exercise enhanced vigilance over all Islamic Republic of Iran shipping lines activity, including subjecting its cargo to enhanced scrutiny.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps at the United Nations he *(a)* has taken since November 2009 and *(b)* plans to take in the next six months in response allegations of (i) arming and (ii) funding by Iran of Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [323131]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have serious concerns about the support that Iran provides to groups such as Hamas, which are undermining peace in the middle east through violence. Such support is unacceptable and only serves to undermine regional security. We call on Iran to play a constructive role in fostering peace in the middle east, including through political and diplomatic support to the Palestinian Authority in its attempts to build institutions and improve security.

We continue to push for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1860 which aims to prevent the illicit trafficking of arms into Gaza.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 625W, on ministerial policy advisers, how many times the Special Envoy for Sri Lanka has visited that country since his appointment. [323649]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) visited Sri Lanka in May 2009 as part of a cross-party delegation of Members of Parliament.

Tibet: Politics and Government

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to endorse the practical measures suggested by the Tibetan envoys at the China-Tibet talks in January 2010 and to encourage the Chinese authorities to respond positively to them. [323093]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We welcome the fact that talks between the Chinese Government and representatives of the Dalai Lama have taken place.

It would be inappropriate for the UK to endorse positions taken by either side in negotiation.

We believe that progress depends on both sides continuing to engage in dialogue in good faith. This is the only way to bring about a lasting and peaceful solution to the problems in Tibet.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he raised the issue of Tibet *(a)* privately and *(b)* publicly during his recent visit to China; and if he will make a statement. [323094][1]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: During my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's visit to China he raised the issue of Tibet with Premier Wen and Foreign Minister Yang. He expressed our continued concern at the situation in Tibet, including the heavy security presence, and restrictions on freedom of expression and religion. He welcomed the resumption of the talks between the Chinese authorities and representatives of the Dalai Lama but emphasised that the talks must be substantive to be successful.

Following his visit, the UK and China held a human rights dialogue. This was a further opportunity for us to raise our concerns about Tibet. In advance of the

1. *[Official Report, 25 May 2010, Vol. 510, c. 1MC.]*

dialogue we have handed over a list of 42 cases, of concern, a number of which relate to Tibet, affecting 56 individuals.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the decision by the Chinese authorities to resettle Tibet's 2.25 million nomads into urban areas; and if he will make a statement. [323216]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In his work report of the Chinese Government to the National People's Congress, Premier Wen Jiabao said that the Chinese Government would build permanent housing for nomads. He also promised to "give high priority to protecting the cultural heritage of ethnic minorities and the ecosystems in ethnic minority areas".

Staff at our embassy in Beijing have discussed the Government's policy of encouraging nomads to move to fixed settlements with local government representatives in Tibet, who justify it by the need to improve access to public services such as health and education and in order to protect fragile high-altitude grasslands from overgrazing.

Without free media coverage and transparent democratic governance there it is impossible for the Tibetan community to express its views on this policy.

We encourage the Chinese Government at every opportunity to promote the cultural rights of Tibetans and freedom of expression in Tibet.

Togo: Politics and Government

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the political situation in Togo following the recent elections in that country. [323852]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The elections in 2010 mark a significant improvement from those of 2005. Although minor irregularities were recorded, they were not deemed significant enough to have changed the overall result and EU election monitors thought the elections to be broadly fair and democratic.

However, the opposition have rejected the result and organised demonstrations in protest. We, with our EU partners, continue to urge both sides to exercise restraint and pursue objections through legal means.

Zimbabwe: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress by the Unity Government of Zimbabwe on human rights; and if he will make a statement. [323619]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Human rights abuses continue in Zimbabwe, with a recent worrying increase in the harassment of civil society.

In December 2009, the signatories of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) agreed on the composition of a new Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC). Members of the ZHRC have yet to be sworn in but its ability to operate freely will have a key impact on monitoring and tackling human rights abuses in Zimbabwe.

We, with our partners, will continue to monitor the human rights situation closely and support efforts to prevent abuses and institute international human rights standards.

CABINET OFFICE

Capacitybuilders

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what declaration of political activity each member of the Capacitybuilders Campaigning Research Programme Fund selection panel has made. [322886]

Angela E. Smith: No declaration of political activity was made by the panellists.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what projects have been shortlisted for funding under the Capacitybuilders Campaigning Research Programme Fund; and what the purpose is of each of those projects. [322887]

Angela E. Smith: Funding for the Campaigning Research Programme has been transferred to the Hardship Fund to support frontline recession-related services. This programme no longer exists and therefore there are no projects shortlisted for funding.

Census

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 795, on the 2011 Census, what the most recent estimate is of the *(a)* absolute response rate in terms of number of respondents and *(b)* percentage response rate in each of the pilot local authority areas for the 2011 Census rehearsals; in which (i) wards and (ii) postcode areas rehearsals were held in each of the pilot areas; and what criteria were used to select the sub-areas. [318330]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As the Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking pursuant to the Answer of 27 January 2010, Official Report, column 795, on the 2011 Census, what the most recent estimate is of the (a) absolute response rate in terms of number of respondents and (b) percentage response rate in each of the pilot local authority areas for the 2011 Census rehearsals; in which (i) wards and (ii) postcode areas rehearsals were held in each of the pilot areas; and what the criteria were by which the sub-areas were selected. (318330)

The rehearsal was unlike the Census in that it was voluntary and publicity was necessarily limited. It included 133,890 addresses (61,725 in Lancaster, 38,618 in Newham and 33,547 in Anglesey); 49,300 returns were received.

In order to rehearse our procedures appropriately, 51% of addresses were pre-selected to be subject to the full follow-up process; the remainder were not followed up if they did not respond. In the Census itself, it is the intention that all non responding households will be followed up.

(a) Measuring return rates from those 68,000 households subject to the full process, we had 27,500 returns (41%).

(b) The percentage return rate in each of the rehearsal local authority areas is:

	Percentage
Lancaster	48
Newham	28
Anglesey	49

(i) and (ii) All wards in Lancaster and Anglesey were included in the rehearsal.

Areas in Newham were selected by lower super output areas, a statistical geography, which do not always align with ward boundaries. All or part of the wards and postcode sectors shown at Annex A were part of the Newham rehearsal.

The particular criteria for choosing sub-areas in Newham were that they should contain around 40,000 households, a number of communal establishments and a traveller site; that they should have high concentrations of multiple occupancy and student; that they should be contiguous. The areas were chosen in order to reflect some of the particular challenges representative of hard to enumerate areas.

Annex A

(i) Wards in which the rehearsal was held

All wards in Lancaster and Anglesey and the following in Newham:

Ward reference	*Ward name*	*LA name*	*Level of ward inclusion*
OOBBGU	Stratford and New Town	Newham	Whole
OOBBGG	East Ham Central	Newham	Partial
OOBBGK	Forest Gate North	Newham	Partial
OOBBGD	Canning Town North	Newham	Partial
OOBBGF	Custom House	Newham	Partial
OOBBGE	Canning Town South	Newham	Partial
OOBBGS	Plaistow South	Newham	Partial
OOBBGB	Beckton	Newham	Partial
OOBBGJ	East Ham South	Newham	Partial
OOBBGX	West Ham	Newham	Partial
OOBBGT	Royal Docks	Newham	Partial
OOBBGL	Forest Gate South	Newham	Partial
OOBBGH	East Ham North	Newham	Partial
OOBBGC	Boleyn	Newham	Partial
OOBBGW	Wall End	Newham	Partial

(ii) Postcode areas

Newham

E1
E12
E13
E15
E16
E3
E6
E7

Lancaster

CH3
LA1
LA2
LA3
LA4
LA5
LA6
LA7
PR3

Anglesey

LL00
LL58
LL59
LL60
LL61
LL62
LL63
LL64
LL65
LL66
LL67
LL68
LL69
LL70
LL71
LL72
LL73
LL74
LL75
LL76
LL77
LL78

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 953-6W, on the Census, (1) what estimate she has made of the cost of printing the Census forms; how many Census forms of each type will be printed; and what estimate has been made of average cost of printing a form of each type; [322892]

(2) what estimate has been made of the cost of storing the Census forms; [322893]

(3) for what reasons the forms for the Census are being printed in March 2010; [322894]

(4) how many Census forms of each type will be printed in March 2010. [322908]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As the Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

pursuant to the Answer of 3 December 2009, Official Report, columns 953-6W, on the Census, what estimate she has made of the cost of printing the Census forms; how many Census forms of each type will be printed; and what estimate has been made of average cost of printing a form of each type. (322892)

pursuant to the Answer of 3 December 2009, Official Report, columns 953-6W, on the Census, what estimate has been made of the cost of storing the Census forms. (322893)

pursuant to the Answer of 3 December 2009, Official Report, column 953W, on the Census, for what reasons the forms for the Census are being printed in March 2010. (322894)

pursuant to the Answer of 3 December 2009, Official Report, columns 953-6W, on the Census, how many Census forms of each type will be printed in March 2010. (322908)

The contract for census processing was awarded to Lockheed Martin UK in August 2008. This is the largest of the census contracts with a value of around £150m.

It is estimated that the cost for the printing of the 2011 Census questionnaires is in the region of £20 million; which would equate to an average cost of around £0.53 per questionnaire.

Lockheed Martin UK acts as the prime contractor with several sub contractors undertaking aspects of the work.

There are a number of types of census questionnaires. England, Wales and Northern Ireland each have a different question set, and in Wales everything needs to be printed twice, once in English and once in Welsh.

Due to the differences in questions and language used across these areas, there will be 17 separate types of questionnaires printed in total. These can be broadly grouped into four categories, and will be printed in the corresponding quantities:

Household questionnaires: around 34 million

Individual questionnaires: around 3 million

Communal Establishment questionnaires: around 144,000

Census Coverage Survey questionnaires: around 600,000

ONS does not have the costs of printing each specific form type.

Storage costs are factored into the fixed price service contract so it is not possible to extract specific costs for the storage of any questionnaires printed in the period up to census day.

In addition to the questionnaires there are information guides, translations of the questions into various languages, leaflets, envelopes and other necessary material to accompany the questionnaires; as well as the various administrative forms used by census staff to undertake the census. This amounts to around 50 separate types of document to be printed; and is estimated to total approximately 107 million items, on top of the roughly 1 billion pages of questionnaires.

Initial printing of the questionnaires is running from March 2010 to July 2010; once this is complete a second process of overprinting will begin in July 2010, during which individual barcodes, unique identifiers and internet access codes will be printed onto each questionnaire.

For this process to be a success the scanning and processing software needs to be developed and rigorously tested. This is a large and involved project and must start in April 2010 for the systems to be ready in time for census day on 27 March 2011.

In addition to being needed for the printing timetable, a finalised print-tested questionnaire is needed for the programming of the scanning and printing software and for creating test data for the various stages of testing necessary to ensure that the final processes meet the high standard demanded by the census.

Civil Servants: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the cash savings arising from changes to redundancy payments under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme in each of the next three years. [323446]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 11-13WS. Savings on redundancy payments in each of the next three years will depend on the number of redundancies that occur in those years.

Deaths: Arthritis

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths of *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 10 to 16, (ii) 17 to 24, (iii) 25 to 30, (iv) 31 to 35, (v) 36 to 40 and (vi) over 40 years in each local authority area were attributed to rheumatoid arthritis in each year since 1997. [323127]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths of (a) males and (b) females aged (i) 10 to 16, (ii) 17 to 24, (iii) 25 to 30, (iv) 31 to 35, (v) 36 to 40 and (vi) over 40 years in each local authority area were attributed to rheumatoid arthritis in each year since 1997. (323127)

The tables provide the number of deaths where rheumatoid arthritis was the underlying cause of death for (a) males and (b) females aged (i) 10 to 16, (ii) 17 to 24, (iii) 25 to 30, (iv) 31 to 35, (v) 36 to 40 and (vi) 41 years and over, in England and Wales (Table 1); and where rheumatoid arthritis was the underlying cause of death for each local authority (Table 2), for the years 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available). A copy of the latter table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The number of deaths with an underlying cause of rheumatoid arthritis in each local authority, broken down by sex and age group, is extremely small. Consequently this level of detail has not been provided, in line with ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics[1].

[1] The ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/ConfidentialityBirth&Death.pdf

Table 1. Number of deaths where rheumatoid arthritis was the underlying cause of death[1], by sex and age group, in England and Wales[2], 1997-2008[3]

Deaths (persons aged 10 and over)

Sex	Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Males	10-16	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	17-24	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	25-30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	31-35	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	36-40	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	41 and over	169	141	136	149	240	208	203	195	176	176	181	181
Females	10-16	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	17-24	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	25-30	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
	31-35	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	36-40	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	1	1	0

Table 1. Number of deaths where rheumatoid arthritis was the underlying cause of death[1], by sex and age group, in England and Wales[2], 1997-2008[3]

Deaths (persons aged 10 and over)

Sex	Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	41 and over	628	632	558	523	733	749	703	603	656	565	552	569

[1] Cause of death for rheumatoid arthritis was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 714.0-714.9 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes M05.0-M06.9, M08.0, M08.2, M08.3 and M08.9. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Deaths in England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Deaths: Diabetes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths *(a)* in Southend, *(b)* in Essex and *(c)* nationally were attributed to diabetes in each of the last five years. [323115]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths (a) in Southend, (b) in Essex and (c) nationally were attributed to diabetes in each of the last five years. (323115)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where diabetes was the underlying cause of death in (a) Southend-on-Sea unitary authority, (b) Essex county and (c) England and Wales, for the years 2004 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Figures for Essex county do not include deaths in Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock unitary authorities, which were part of the former County of Essex.

Table 1: Number of deaths where diabetes was the underlying cause of death, Southend-on-Sea unitary authority, Essex county, and England and Wales, 2004-08[1, 2, 3, 4]

Deaths (persons)

Area	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Southend-on-Sea	24	17	17	14	22
Essex	131	138	143	127	151
England and Wales	5,846	5,652	5,491	5,426	5,536

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E10-E14 (Diabetes mellitus).
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2010.
[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Computer Software

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 604W, on departmental computer software, whether the Cabinet Office's IT department permits or facilitates the installation of *(a)* Firefox, *(b)* Chrome and *(c)* Opera on departmental computers for the use of civil servants in her Department and in 10 Downing Street; and what version of Internet Explorer is installed on the computers in 10 Downing Street. [322917]

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the ministerial correction of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 12MC, on departmental computer software, whether *(a)* Firefox and *(b)* Opera website browsers are permitted to be installed on her Department's computers. [323571]

Angela E. Smith: On specific computers the Cabinet Office allows the use of various browsers where there is a requirement for their use.

Cabinet Office's corporate IT services include internet explorer as a standard feature. Versions are updated to ensure that we have supported software and achieve value for money.

Emigration

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what methodology the Office for National Statistics uses to estimate the number of people who permanently leave the UK. [322888]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question regarding what methodology the Office for National Statistics uses to estimate the number of people who permanently leave the UK. (322888)

The Office for National Statistics estimates long-term international emigration based mainly on data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS). Other data sources are used to make adjustments for asylum seekers and their dependants not counted by the IPS, people who change their intentions and, therefore, their migratory status and people who emigrate from Northern Ireland.

The methodology is described in detail at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/Methodology-to-estimate-LTIM.pdf

These estimates relate to those who intend to leave the UK for at least a year, including those who leave permanently. They are based on people's intentions at the time they leave the UK. Within this we are able to identify the number of people who say they intend to leave for longer than four years, but not those who intend to leave permanently.

The cross-government Migration Statistics Improvement Programme is improving the sources and methods used to produce the international migration estimates. Following extensive research and a large scale engagement programme with users, it has delivered improvements in the accuracy of migration statistics from the International Passenger Survey.

Employment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Horsham of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 699W, on employment, how many *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector employees there were in each constituency in the (i) equivalent period in 1996-97 and (ii) latest period for which figures are available. [322883]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) public and (b) private sector employees there were in each constituency in the (i) equivalent period in 1996-97 and (ii) latest period for which figures are available. (322883)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the Annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Individuals are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the APS. Consequently, the classification of an individual's sector may differ from how they would be classified in the National Accounts.

Estimates on the number of people in employment in the public and private sector are not available for the 1996-97 period from the Annual LFS. Estimates of employment for the latest available period have been provided as part of the answer in the Official Report, column 699W.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Government Departments: ICT

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations have responded to the consultation on the UK Government ICT Strategy. [322884]

Angela E. Smith: 17 individuals have responded to the UK Government ICT Strategy on the website Write to Reply. Government have also received comments from a range of other organisations including suppliers, trade associations and other interested parties.

These are responses directly to the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and do not include responses that individual Government Departments or public bodies may have received.

Government Departments: Publications

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued by the National Statistician to Government Departments on the publication of statistics during the 2010 general election campaign. [323445]

Tessa Jowell: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Office issues guidance on the handling of departmental business during the pre-election period, including guidance on statistical activities agreed with the National Statistician. The 2005 general election guidance is in the Libraries of both Houses, and can be found on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/propriety_and_ethics/assets/electguide.pdf

Insolvency

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses in each industry region in each sector went into *(a)* compulsory liquidation, *(b)* creditors' voluntary liquidation, *(c)* administration and *(d)* receivership in each year from 2004 to 2009. [323820]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

Official statistics for corporate insolvencies by region are not currently available.

The following tables show figures for 2008 and 2009 for compulsory liquidations, creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), receiverships and administrations broken down by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2003 sectors, for England and Wales.

Earlier, complete years' figures broken down by industry are not available on the same basis, but are available for part of the period requested broken down according to the Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC) on the Insolvency Service's website:

www.insolvency.gov.uk/statistics

Whole year figures are not available for 2006 or 2007 because of the transition between ITC and SIC2003.

Table 1: Compulsory liquidations by industry[1, 3]

Section		*2008*	*2009[2]*
Section A	Agriculture, hunting and forestry	31	26
Section B	Fishing	8	3
Section C	Mining and quarrying	12	3
Section D	Manufacturing	289	249
Section E	Electricity, gas and water supply	43	39
Section F	Construction	1,059	1,017
Section G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles and personal and household goods	726	574
Section H	Hotels and restaurants	361	245
Section I	Transport, storage and communication	379	254
Section J	Financial intermediation	130	143
Section K	Real estate, renting and business activities	639	473
Section L	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	13	13
Section M	Education	46	41
Section N	Health and social work	50	45
Section O	Other community, social and personal service activities	409	291
Section P	Private households employing staff and undifferentiated production activities of households for own use	3	3
Section Q	Extra-territorial organisations and bodies	7	5
All others[2]		1,633	1,053

Table 1: Compulsory liquidations by industry[1] [3]

Section		2008	2009[4]
Total		5,838	4,477

[1] The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC 2003) definitions can be found at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/sic/downloads/UK_SIC_Vol1(2003).pdf
[2] Unknown SIC.
[3] Totals for compulsory liquidations here are not the same as the headline figures. This is because the industrial breakdown has been compiled from a specially selected extract from the live database, whereas the headline figures are produced monthly using a different reporting system.
[4] Figures for compulsory liquidations by industry are supplied a quarter in arrears. Hence the figure for 2009 only includes data for January-September 2009.

Table 2: Creditors' liquidations by industry[1] [3]

Section		2008	2009
Section A	Agriculture, hunting and forestry	34	43
Section B	Fishing	1	1
Section C	Mining and quarrying	10	11
Section D	Manufacturing	1,174	1,702
Section E	Electricity, gas and water supply	8	11
Section F	Construction	1,643	2,384
Section G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles and personal and household goods	1,714	2,096
Section H	Hotels and restaurants	611	783
Section I	Transport, storage and communication	472	556
Section J	Financial intermediation	143	176
Section K	Real estate, renting and business activities	2,757	3,976
Section L	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	12	17
Section M	Education	56	71
Section N	Health and social work	74	89
Section O	Other community, social and personal service activities	538	725
Section P	Private households employing staff and undifferentiated production activities of households for own use	6	13
Section Q	Extra-territorial organisations and bodies	3	1
All others[2]		785	779
Total		10,041	13,434

[1] The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC 2003) definitions can be found at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/sic/downloads/UK_SIC_Vol1(2003).pdf
[2] Including unknown or invalid SIC codes and non-trading or dormant companies.
[3] Where the Creditors Voluntary Liquidation is the first insolvency procedure entered into (see "Notes to Editors" paragraph 8).

Table 3: Receiverships by industry[1]

Section		2008	2009
Section A	Agriculture, hunting and forestry	2	2
Section B	Fishing	0	0
Section C	Mining and quarrying	0	1
Section D	Manufacturing	33	36
Section E	Electricity, gas and water supply	2	0
Section F	Construction	115	245
Section G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles and personal and household goods	44	65
Section H	Hotels and restaurants	20	47
Section I	Transport, storage and communication	6	12
Section J	Financial intermediation	17	16
Section K	Real estate, renting and business activities	531	880
Section L	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	0	0
Section M	Education	1	3
Section N	Health and social work	2	9
Section O	Other community, social and personal service activities	37	38
Section P	Private households employing staff and undifferentiated production activities of households for own use	0	0
Section Q	Extra-territorial organisations and bodies	0	0
All others[2]		57	114
Total		867	1,468

[1] The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC 2003) definitions can be found at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/sic/downloads/UK_SIC_Vol1(2003).pdf
[2] Including unknown or invalid SIC codes and non-trading or dormant companies.

Table 4: Administrations by industry[1]

Section		2008[2]	2009
Section A	Agriculture, hunting and forestry	18	10
Section B	Fishing	3	3
Section C	Mining and quarrying	4	10
Section D	Manufacturing	693	761

Table 4: Administrations by industry[1]

Section		2008[3]	2009
Section E	Electricity, gas and water supply	3	1
Section F	Construction	468	427
Section G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles and personal and household goods	621	492
Section H	Hotels and restaurants	192	240
Section I	Transport, storage and communication	195	175
Section J	Financial intermediation	81	61
Section K	Real estate, renting and business activities	2,008	[redacted],330
Section L	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	5	3
Section M	Education	27	16
Section N	Health and social work	45	54
Section O	Other community, social and personal service activities	172	225
Section P	Private households employing staff and undifferentiated production activities of households for own use	1	1
Section Q	Extra-territorial organisations and bodies	0	0
All others[2]		284	237
Total		4,820	4,161

[1] The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC 2003) definitions can be found at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/sic/downloads/UK_SIC_Vol1(2003).pdf

[2] Including unknown or invalid SIC codes and non-trading or dormant companies.

[3] The figure for Q4 2008 includes 729 separate managed service companies for which BDO Stoy Hayward was appointed administrator. The administrations were approved in September 2008, but the statistics are counted based on the date registered at Companies House (which fell in October 2008, i.e. Q4).

Older People

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people and what proportion of the total population in each local authority area are projected to be over 65 years old in *(a)* 2015, *(b)* 2020, *(c)* 2025, *(d)* 2030 and *(e)* 2050. [323374]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people and what proportion of the total population in each local authority area are projected to be over 65 years old in (a) 2015, (b) 2020, (c) 2025, (d) 2030 and (e) 2050. [323374]

The table shows the projected population aged over 65 years in each local authority in 2015, 2020, 2025 and 2030. These are 2006-based Subnational Population Projections which were published by the Office for National Statistics on 12 June 2008. The Office for National Statistics has not published population projections at local authority area for 2050.

A copy of the table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The subnational population projections are demographic trend-based projections that indicate what the population of an area is likely to be if recently observed trends in fertility, mortality and migration were to continue. They take no account of future policies or developments which may affect trends.

The 2008-based Subnational Population Projections are due to be published on 27 May 2010.

Pay

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average rate of change was in *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector pay, including bonuses, in the last 36 months. [322889]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average rate of change was in *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector pay growth including bonuses in the last 36 months (322889).

Estimates of rates of change in pay growth are produced from the Office for National Statistics' average weekly earnings indicators. The average annual rate of change of pay including bonuses over the last 36 months, covering the period from February 2007 through January 2010, was:

(a) Private Sector: 2.5 per cent

(b) Public Sector: 3.4 per cent

The estimates have been seasonally adjusted. Please note that the January 2010 estimate is provisional and may be subject to revision.

Productivity

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the mean change was in *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector productivity in each year since 1997. [322913]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what the mean change was in (a) public sector and (b) private sector productivity in each year since 1997 (322913).

Public sector productivity growth rates are available from the ONS Public Service Productivity articles at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

These are experimental statistics. They include all services funded by the public sector whether or not they are produced by the public sector. Hence the concept of output is gross output, not value added. Public sector productivity growth estimates are produced on a multi-factor basis; the concept of input includes intermediate consumption, capital and labour. Table 1 contains the latest statistics available for public sector productivity.

Productivity estimates are not available for the private sector but experimental statistics are produced for the Market Sector and are available from the ONS quarterly release on Productivity. The market sector includes almost all market activity and excludes most non-market activity, in particular that of general government. The measurement includes public corporations. Market Sector estimates are produced on an output per worker basis from 1991 onwards and an output per hour basis from 1999 onwards basis. Table 2 contains the latest statistics available for market sector productivity.

Table 1: Total public service output, input and productivity estimate, 1997 to 2007 United Kingdom, percentage change from 1997

Period	Volume of output	Volume of input	Productivity
1997	0.0	0.0	0.0
1998	1.6	1.4	0.2
1999	3.7	4.1	-0.4
2000	7.4	8.9	-1.4
2001	10.8	12.0	-1.1
2002	15.8	18.7	-2.4
2003	20.7	25.5	-3.8
2004	25.1	30.5	-4.1
2005	28.5	34.6	-4.5
2006	31.9	37.0	-3.7
2007	33.6	38.0	-3.2
Mean	2.9	3.3	-0.3

Table 2: Market sector productivity quarter on same quarter a year ago growth experimental , United Kingdom

Period	Output per worker	Output per hour
1997 Q1	1.5	—
1997 Q2	1.2	—
1997 Q3	1.5	—
1997 Q4	2.6	—
1998 Q1	3.1	—
1998 Q2	3.8	—
1998 Q3	3.6	—
1998 Q4	3.0	—
1999 Q1	2.4	—
1999 Q2	2.5	—
1999 Q3	2.9	—
1999 Q4	3.0	—
2000 Q1	3.6	—
2000 Q2	3.7	4.4
2000 Q3	3.0	4.0
2000 Q4	2.7	3.0
2001 Q1	2.6	1.7
2001 Q2	1.5	1.0
2001 Q3	1.7	1.2
2001 Q4	1.0	2.1
2002 Q1	0.9	1.7
2002 Q2	0.9	3.0
2002 Q3	1.3	2.3
2002 Q4	1.6	2.5
2003 Q1	1.3	2.4
2003 Q2	2.1	2.0
2003 Q3	2.0	2.8
2003 Q4	3.1	3.9
2004 Q1	3.1	3.4
2004 Q2	3.4	4.0
2004 Q3	2.6	3.2
2004 Q4	2.0	1.6
2005 Q1	1.4	0.7
2005 Q2	1.4	1.7
2005 Q3	1.6	1.2
2005 Q4	2.2	2.3
2006 Q1	2.8	3.2
2006 Q2	2.0	1.9
2006 Q3	2.0	2.5
2006 Q4	1.7	2.2
2007 Q1	2.5	2.3
2007 Q2	2.5	1.9
2007 Q3	2.7	2.5
2007 Q4	1.7	2.6
2008 Q1	1.0	0.7
2008 Q2	0.4	1.7
2008 Q3	-0.5	-0.3
2008 Q4	-2.5	-2.2
2009 Q1	-5.6	-3.0
2009 Q2	-5.1	-4.5
2009 Q3	-4.6	-3.2

UK Statistics Authority: Finance

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 23 February 2010, Official *Report*, column 16WS, on the UK Statistics Authority (DEL), what the new priorities and in-year pressures were for the UK Statistics Authority that required the £6 million take-up of departmental unallocated provision. [322879]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated March 2010:

As Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I have been asked to respond to your question asking the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the new priorities and in-year pressures were for the UK Statistical Authority that required the £6 million take up of the departmental unallocated provision. (322879)

In 2006/07 the Office for National Statistics announced that staff numbers in London would reduce to about 90 by the end of 2009/10, and a provision has been made for early retirement of those staff allowing for those who leave by other means, such as transfer, relocation or resignation.

As part of the decision to relocate all remaining London staff to Myddelton Street, Drummond Gate was vacated in June 2008. The property is being actively marketed and discussions are taking place with a number of potential tenants, and so far three tenants have signed leases for three out of six floors. We have also made provisions in respect of this property.

The £6 million pounds is required to fund the cash to meet the 2009-10 element of property provisions.

UK Youth Parliament

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will bring forward proposals to include UK Youth Parliament members in decision-making in Government. [322714]

Ms Butler: The Government's ambition is to ensure that young people have more opportunities to engage with the issues they are passionate about, because we firmly believe they should be empowered as citizens, connected to the political process and offered a meaningful say in the decisions that affect them. The Government have already made substantial steps towards this goal. In line with recommendation 12 of the Youth Citizenship Commission's report published June 2009, the Government have established a series of youth panels across Government which help to provide advice to Ministers on specific issues.

Unemployment: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the rate of *(a)* unemployment and *(b)* youth unemployment was in rural areas in (i) England and (ii) Wales in each of the last 10 years. [323315]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the level of (a) unemployment and (b) youth unemployment was in rural areas in (i) England and (ii) Wales in each of the last 10 years. (323315)

The available information is provided in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). A breakdown between rural and urban areas is not available from the LFS prior to 2005.

As with any sample survey, the estimates provided are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number of people unemployed in rural[1] areas by country. Three month period ending December. 2005 to 2009, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	All aged 16 and over		*All aged 16 to 24*	
	England	*Wales*	*England*	*Wales*
2005	173	25	79	9
2006	173	20	65	7
2007	163	19	69	8
2008	201	27	80	15
2009[2]	**261	***38	***86	****15

[1] For England and Wales rural areas comprise villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV – for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key	*Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%)*	*Statistical Robustness*
*	0 = CV<5	Estimates are considered precise
**	5 = CV <10	Estimates are considered reasonably precise
***	10 = CV <20	Estimates are considered acceptable
****	CV = 20	Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:
Labour Force Survey

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.)

HEALTH

Arthritis

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people *(a)* living with and *(b)* diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [323220]

Ann Keen: The Department has not made a specific estimate of the number of people living with and diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.

However, there are various estimates of the number of people living with rheumatoid arthritis and those diagnosed with the disease. These estimates suggest that the number of people ranges between 400,000 and 580,000, and between 12,000 and 26,000 being diagnosed each year. For example, the National Audit Office report 'Services for People with Rheumatoid Arthritis' estimates that 580,000 adults have rheumatoid arthritis, with approximately 26,000 new diagnoses each year. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidance on the management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults, published in February 2009, estimates prevalence of 400,000 and annual incidence of 12,000.

The variation in estimates reflect the different data sources used to calculate incidence and prevalence.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 242W, on cancer drugs, how many primary care trusts have made available each of the drugs listed as recommended for NHS use by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence under the patient access scheme. [323056]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not collected centrally.

Cancer: Nurses

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist cancer nurses for children and young people are employed by the NHS in each region. [322532]

Ann Keen: Specialist cancer nurses are not identified separately in the NHS Workforce Census.

Contraceptives: Health Education

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Guildford of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 471W, on contraceptives: health education, what consideration was given to including advertising of the benefits of the oral contraceptive pill in his Department's campaign on contraception: "Worth

talking about"; what assessment he has made of the effect of his Department's campaign on usage of the oral contraceptive pill; and if he will make a statement. [323572]

Gillian Merron: The "Sex. Worth talking about" campaign highlights that there are 15 contraceptive options available, including two types of contraceptive pill. It aims to raise awareness of the longer acting methods which are more effective in typical use and are less well known among the public. The campaign is designed to encourage people to investigate all their options and to consider which method might best fit their lifestyle. It advises a discussion with a health-care professional in order to clarify these options, as medical considerations may impact an individual's final choice. It is too early to know if there has been an effect on usage of the oral contraceptive pill but the annual NHS Contraception Services Report, due October 2010, will be the first indication of any changes in the profile of contraceptive methods chosen by women.

Dementia

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on dementia research in each of the last five years. [323900]

Gillian Merron: Both the Department and the Medical Research Council support research into dementia. Annual expenditure figures are shown in the following table.

Expenditure on dementia research

£ million

	Department	*Medical Research Council*	*Total*
2004-05	19	6.2	25.2
2005-06	18.3	6	24.3
2006-07	22.8	6.4	29.2
2007-08	22.2	10.2	32.4
2008-09	18.4	11.5	29.9

Departmental Consultants

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which outside consultancies undertook work commissioned by his Department in each year from 1997 to 2004; and what the *(a)* purpose of and *(b)* amount paid in relation to each commission was. [323028]

Phil Hope: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to Questions in the formulation if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997 could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323865]

Phil Hope: The statistical information requested in this formulation is already collected and held centrally by the Department and therefore does not incur disproportionate cost.

Direct Payments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people are receiving direct payments for carers in each local authority area; [323375]

(2) how much funding has been allocated in each local authority area to administer personalised budgets in the next 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* existing and *(b)* new recipients that will receive personalised budgets in each such area in the next 12 months; [323376]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of local authorities which will reach the 30 per cent. target for the number of people able to access personalised budgets for social care; and what steps he plans to take in relation to those authorities which do not reach that target; [323476]

(4) what guidance his Department is providing to local authorities on turning personalised budgets into direct payments; and what programmes have been established to assist this process. [323477]

Phil Hope: Data on the number of carers (aged 16 and over who are caring for adults aged 18 and over) in receipt of direct payments from councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. Provisional data on the total numbers of carers in receipt of direct payments during the year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, by CASSR are available and a copy has been placed in the Library. Final data for 2008-09 are expected to be published on 28 April 2010.

The Department has given councils an Adult Social Care Reform Grant of £520 million to spend over three years from April 2008. This will enable them to make their social care services more personalised. It is a local decision about how much the local authority chooses to spend to administer personal budgets, which is only one part of the transformation programme. The Department does not collect prospective information. However, the Association for Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) has estimated that 200,000 people are likely to have a personal budget by April 2010.

Although the Department collects information retrospectively on the number of people who receive personal budgets, no official estimate has been made of the number of councils that will have provided personal budgets to 30 per cent. of people eligible to receive community care services by April 2011. ADASS are currently undertaking a survey to identify council's progress and this report will be published in the summer.

Councils which do not meet the target will be identified by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as part of their monitoring role. The Department has been working closely with CQC to ensure that a consistent message is delivered to councils.

The following guidance and programmes have been provided to councils to help them operate and use direct payments and personal budgets:

Personal budgets for older people—making it happen (January 2010). This guide focuses on how councils can make personal budgets work well for older people and their families. It looks at how to ensure personal budgets are accessible, simple to use, flexible and help to achieve the things that matter most to the people using them. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Personal Budgets: Council Commissioned Services (January 2010). ADASS produced further advice on how personal budgets can work well for people who use council-commissioned services rather than a direct payment.

ADASS and the Department published a set of materials which aim to help councils make progress with implementing 'Putting People First (2007) (PPF)' a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. These bring together the latest learning from councils and are linked to the PPF milestones agreed between ADASS, the Local Government Association and the Department in September 2009. These materials include:

PPF operating models: early learning (October 2009). This resource was published by ADASS which provides advice and examples showing how innovative councils are approaching the transformation of their systems and the lessons they are learning.

Guidance on direct payments: For community care, services for carers and children's services (September 2009). This departmental guidance provides information on how local councils might operate direct payments. It reflects the changes brought about by the new regulations and supersedes the 'Direct Payments guidance: community care, services for carers and children's services (Direct Payments) guidance England 2003'. It also reflects the Government's commitment to support independence, choice and control, as set out in Putting People First; A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social Care and Aiming high for disabled children.

The Department has also published a self-assessment and action planning guide (May 2007) to support councils and their partners. These local solutions have been collated to form a web-based nation solution set which is available at:

http://kc.csip.org.uk/solutionset.php?grp=601

Eating Disorders

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines his Department has issued to NHS organisations on *(a)* diagnosing and *(b)* referring patients with eating disorders. [323765]

Phil Hope: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published clinical guidelines on core interventions in the treatment and management of eating disorders in 2004. Most people with an eating disorder are not admitted to hospital but treated in primary, out-patient or community care settings. General practitioners and clinicians are expected to refer to NICE guidance as often as is necessary.

People with very severe and intractable eating disorders may require referral to highly specialised services when their health needs cannot be met within local mental health services. Access to these specialised services should be made on the basis of tertiary referrals from consultant to consultant.

General Practitioners: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GPs and *(b)* dentists were practising in Leeds, North-West constituency in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [322698]

Ann Keen: The number of general practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) practising within the former Leeds health authority and the Leeds primary care trust (PCT) area for 1997 and the latest date at which data is available is shown in the following table.

Number

	1997	*2008*
Leeds Health Authority	422	n/a
Leeds PCT	n/a	518

n/a = Not applicable.

Notes:

1. Data is not available at constituency level. Leeds PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of East Leeds PCT, Leeds North East PCT, Leeds North West PCT, Leeds West PCT and South Leeds PCT. Prior to 2002 Leeds was serviced by the Leeds Health Authority. This Health Authority may not map completely into the newly formed PCTs but has been provided here as background and appears consistent with subsequent aggregated PCT figures.
2. Data as at 1 October 1997 and 30 September 2008.
3. Data Quality: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics

The numbers of national health service dentists, as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex E and Annex G of the NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006. Annex E provides information by strategic health authority (SHA) and by PCT. Annex G provides information by constituency.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March 2007, 2008 and 2009 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2008-09 report. Information is provided for England and by SHA and PCT but is not available by constituency. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 19 August 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes any previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

These published figures relate to a headcount and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Health Centres: Finance

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital funding has been allocated to each primary care trust to build new GP-led health centres. [323042]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A £250 million access revenue fund was secured for the national health service through the comprehensive spending review process to support the delivery of general practitioner (GP) health centres in every primary care trust (PCT) and over a 100 new GP practices in the most poorly served PCTs. In all, £120 million per annum has been allocated to PCTs for new GP health centres and this has been included using a weighted capitation formula to determine each PCTs fair share of resources.

No specific capital funding has been allocated for the development of GP health centres. Where capital investment is required to support the development of new GP facilities, PCTs can use the funds available to them for local capital investment priorities.

Home Care Services: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of people aged 65 years or over in Birmingham received assistance to live at home in each year since 1997; and how much funding was provided for such purposes in each of those years. [321569]

Phil Hope: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects information on the number of people aged 65 and over in receipt of local authority funded community based services and the expenditure on these services. Reliable data about numbers of people receiving community-based services are only available from 2001-02. Information about expenditure on services is only available from 2000-01.

Table 1 shows the number of adults—aged 65 and over—in receipt of community based services from Birmingham city council as at 31 March for the years 2001-02 to 2004-05 and the total gross current expenditure on community based services for adults—aged 65 and over—for the financial years 2000-01 to 2004-05.

Table 1

	Number aged 65 or over in receipt of community-based services[1]	*Population aged 65 or over*[2]	*Number aged 65 and over helped to live at home per 1,000 population*[1]	*Expenditure*[3] *(£000)*
2000-01	—	—	—	46,082
2001-02	13,500	141,900	95	47,597
2002-03	11,500	141,600	81	41,110
2003-04	10,600	140,600	76	47,113
2004-05	8,500	139,600	61	47,197

[1] As at 31 March each year. Community based services/helped to live at home includes planned short breaks, professional support, transport and equipment and adaptations, in addition to home care, day care and meals services. The definition of people aged 65 and over is taken to be the same as the earlier Performance Assessment Framework Indicator AO/C32: Older people helped to live at home (BVPI 54).
[2] Mid year population estimates provided by the Office for National Statistics.
[3] Expenditure data are for the full financial year.
Sources:
RAP P2s and PSS EX1 returns.

In 2004-05, revised guidance was issued, excluding from the statistics people receiving services from grant-funded organisations who had not had a community care assessment. As a result, data on the number helped to live at home from that time onwards are not comparable to data from previous years.

Table 2 shows the number of adults—aged 65 and over—in receipt of community based services from Birmingham city council as at 31 March for the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 and the total gross current expenditure on community based services for adults—aged 65 and over—for the financial years 2005-06 to 2008-09.

Table 2

	Number aged 65 or over in receipt of community-based services[1]	*Population aged 65 or over*[2]	*Number aged 65 and over helped to live at home per 1,000 population*[1]	*Expenditure*[3] *(£000)*
2005-06	8,200	138,700	59	54,145
2006-07	9,200	137,400	67	60,608
2007-08	7,700	135,600	56	59,813
2008-09[4]	7,000	136,400	52	82,876

[1] As at 31 March each year. Community based services/helped to live at home includes planned short breaks, professional support, transport and equipment and adaptations, in addition to home care, day care and meals services. The definition of people aged 65 and over is taken to be the same as the earlier Performance Assessment Framework Indicator AO/C32: Older people helped to live at home (BVPI 54).
[2] Mid year population estimates provided by the Office for National Statistics.
[3] Expenditure data are for the full financial year.
[4] 2008-09 data are provisional.
Sources:
RAP P2s and PSS EX1 returns.

Hospitals: Consultants

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* distinction awards and *(b)* clinical excellence awards were made to hospital consultants in each of the last five years; and what the (i) monetary value per grade and (ii) total monetary value of each such award was in each of those years. [323811]

Ann Keen: The last new distinction award was made in 2003.

From 2004, clinical excellence awards were made as a replacement for distinction awards. The number of new national clinical excellence awards granted in the last five years, by award level and the monetary value of each award, is shown in the following table:

Award year	*Award level*	*Number of new awards granted*	*Monetary value (£)*
2009	Bronze	332	35,484
	Silver	186	46,644
	Gold	52	58,305
	Platinum	31	75,796
2008	Bronze	344	34,956
	Silver	159	45,955
	Gold	42	57,443
	Platinum	31	74,676
2007	Bronze	338	34,200
	Silver	178	44,965
	Gold	28	56,206
	Platinum	32	73,068
2006	Bronze	330	33,970
	Silver	157	44,657
	Gold	47	55,821

Award year	Award level	Number of new awards granted	Monetary value (£)
	Platinum	38	72,567
2005	Bronze	325	33,468
	Silver	154	43,997
	Gold	60	54,996
	Platinum	34	71,495

Notes:
1. The information in the table does not include information on local clinical excellence awards (employer-based awards) which are given by trusts.
2. It is not possible to quantify the number of awards given specifically to hospital consultants without incurring disproportionate cost. The figures given are for all eligible consultants and will include clinical academics and consultants in a non-hospital setting.
3. It is not possible to calculate the total monetary value of each award without incurring disproportionate cost. Awards are paid to consultants pro rata. Historical information is not retained in the format required.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people had been waiting for treatment at Northampton general hospital for *(a)* over two years, *(b)* between one and two years, *(c)* between six months and one year and *(d)* up to six months in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001 and (iii) the latest year for which figures are available. [322994]

Phil Hope: Information on waiting times for elective admission patients still waiting (weeks) for Northampton general hospital during the time periods 1996-97, 2000-01 and 2009-10 (provider-based) is shown in the following table:

	In-patient waits				
	0 < 6 months	*6 < 12 months*	*12 < 24 months*	*24 months+*	*Total*
March 1996-97	4,370	1,207	219	0	5,796
March 2000-01	4,736	1,346	402	0	6,484
January 2009-10	3,779	0	0	0	3,779

Note:
In-patient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital. *Source:* DH KH07 and MMRPROV collections.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 774W, on medical treatments: waiting lists, what the mean waiting time for all treatments was in each year since 1997. [323432]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is shown in the following table:

In-patient waiting times – commissioner based	
Period (March each year)	*Mean wait (weeks)*
1997	18.1
1998	20.0
1999	18.6
2000	18.7
2001	18.1
2002	17.4
2003	15.6
2004	12.4
2005	10.6
2006	8.7
2007	7.4
2008	5.6
2009	5.3

Source:
Department of Health, QF01, MMRCOM

Figures shown relate to March each year, and are a snapshot of the mean wait of patients waiting at the end of each period. The latest data available are for January 2010, and this figure shows the mean wait of those still waiting at the end of that month of 6.2 weeks. It is not unusual to see such increases in the winter months, and in particular this year given the severity of the winter weather.

March 2010 data will be published on 30 April 2010.

Mental Health Services: Older People

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to tackle age discrimination in mental health services for older people. [323853]

Phil Hope: In December 2009 the Government launched 'New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health', a comprehensive programme for improving the mental health and well-being of the population and services for those with poor mental health. It takes a lifespan approach, from laying down the foundations of good mental health in childhood, through promoting and protecting continued well-being into adulthood, to supporting and maintaining resilience in older age.

We want to make sure that mental health services move away from arbitrary distinctions between working age adults and older adults. We are working with the Royal College of Psychiatrists and others to assist mental health service providers to develop age-appropriate non-discriminatory services. As a first step, 'New Horizons' provides the descriptors of such services, to assist in this work.

Methadone: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the number of people being prescribed methadone in Gloucestershire primary care trust in *(a)* the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the last five years. [323348]

Gillian Merron: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following tables.

Figures on the number of prescription items for methadone prescribed in Gloucestershire primary care trust (PCT) and the other PCTs from which it was formed in October 2006

		Items	*Financial year*			
PCT	*Methadone classification*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10[1]*
Cheltenham and Tewkesbury	Cough suppressant	7	2	n/a	n/a	n/a

Figures on the number of prescription items for methadone prescribed in Gloucestershire primary care trust (PCT) and the other PCTs from which it was formed in October 2006

	Items	*Financial year*				
PCT	*Methadone classification*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
	Analgesia	13	6	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Substance dependence	1,174	706	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cotswold and Vale	Cough suppressant	—	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Analgesia	3	4	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Substance dependence	628	405	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Gloucestershire	Cough suppressant	—	—	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Analgesia	48	17	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Substance dependence	2,117	1,772	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gloucestershire	Cough suppressant	n/a	4	5	7	5
	Analgesia	n/a	19	60	102	76
	Substance dependence	n/a	2,623	5,930	6,744	3,730
Total		3,990	5,559	5,995	6,853	3,811

[1] April to September.

Notes:

1. Data at PCT level is taken from the ePACT system (Prescribing Analysis and Cost Tool), which stores data for 60 months. Data for the final quarter of 2009 is embargoed until after the publication of the associated National Statistic in April 2010. The ePACT system covers prescriptions prescribed by general practitioners (GPs), nurses, pharmacists and others in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom. For data at PCT level, prescriptions written by a prescriber located in a particular PCT but dispensed outside that PCT will be included in the PCT in which the prescriber is based. Prescriptions written in England but dispensed outside England are included. Prescriptions written in hospitals/clinics that are dispensed in the community, prescriptions dispensed in hospitals, dental prescribing and private prescriptions are not included in PACT data. It is important to note this as some British National Formulary (BNF) sections have a high proportion of prescriptions written in hospitals that are dispensed in the community.
2. The BNF describes three uses for Methadone, as a cough suppressant, for analgesia and for the treatment of substance dependence. Figures for each of these have been given but the classification does not guarantee that it was used for that purpose.

The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) figures for the Gloucestershire drugs partnership area on the number of people receiving prescribed opioid substitute treatment (mainly methadone or buprenorphine) from specialist community services or their GP, but not which drug they are being prescribed.

	Number
2005-06	1,358
2006-07	1,459
2007-08	1,542
2008-09	1,683

Notes:

1. Figures collected by NDTMS before 2005-06 are not considered robust enough broken down at local level.
2. Figures combine numbers receiving prescribed opioid substitute treatment from a specialist community services or GPs.
3. NDTMS does not record which drug is prescribed (methadone or buprenorphine).
4. Figures for Gloucestershire PCT are not collected centrally but the Trust covers the same area as the drugs partnership.

NHS: Compensation

Mr. Plaskitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information the Care Quality Commission holds on the payment of compensation from public funds by health authorities and agencies to private companies and individuals; and if he will place a copy of that information in the Library. [323141]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The CQC does not routinely seek, gather or hold information on payments of compensation.

NHS: Crimes of Violence

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many assaults on NHS *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* ambulance personnel and *(d)* non-clinical staff have been reported in each London primary care trust in each year since 2000; and how many criminal sanctions resulted in each such case. [323977]

Ann Keen: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of reported physical assaults against national health service staff in England is contained in the 'Tables Showing Number of Reported Physical Assaults on NHS Staff from 2004-05 to 2007-08, Broken Down by NHS Trust/PCT' and 'Tables Showing Number of Reported Physical Assaults on NHS Staff in 2008-09, Broken Down by NHS Trust/PCT', which have already been placed in the Library.

The numbers of criminal sanctions reported following assaults against NHS staff in England since 2004-05 are shown in the following table:

	Number
2004-05	759
2005-06	850
2006-07	869
2007-08	992
2008-09	941

Criminal sanctions include:

cautions and conditional cautions;

community rehabilitation or punishment orders;

imprisonment (including suspended sentences);

conditional discharges; and

fines.

The NHS Security Management Service (SMS) can assist employers through guidance on assessing risks and acting to protect staff from assaults and, where incidents do occur, on taking action against offenders. The NHS SMS also works with stakeholders, including the Social Partnership Forum, to promote the safety and security of NHS staff.

NHS: Parking

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statistics each NHS organisation reported to his Department in Estates Returns Information Collection on *(a)* the number of car parking spaces it provided for (i) staff, (ii) patients and (iii) visitors, *(b)* the average fee charged per hour for (A) patient, (B) visitor and (C) staff parking and *(c)* the number of parking spaces for disabled people provided in each year from 1997-98 to 2008-09. [323754]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the exact format requested.

Since 2001-02, the Department has collected annual data from national health service trusts on car parking provision and any associated charges through the Estates Returns Information Collection. The available data for each year since 2001-02 have been placed in the Library.

The information provided has been supplied by the NHS and has not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

The provision of hospital car parking and any associated charges are decided locally by individual NHS trusts to help cover the cost of running, maintaining and securing a car park. All NHS trusts should have exemption and concessionary schemes in place to ensure that patients and carers who visit hospital regularly are not disadvantaged. They should also have sustainable public transport plans in place for staff and visitors.

NHS: Private Finance Initiative

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals in each trust are subject to a private finance initiative contract; what the length is of each such contract; and what the annual unitary charge is that each such hospital is charged under its contract. [323027]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information in respect of the private finance initiative schemes has been placed in the Library. The list shows all national health service trusts and primary care trusts with a private finance initiative contract with the name and location of the scheme; the capital value; the length of the contract and the annual unitary charge (which are uprated annually for inflation).

Primary Care Trusts

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information each primary care trust is required to provide to his Department each *(a)* month and *(b)* year. [323812]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information that primary care trusts are required to provide to the Department via central data collections is shown in the table. Other data are collected on behalf of the Department by the NHS Information Centre and other arm's length bodies.

The table shows the frequency of each data collection, including monthly and annual data. The table was extracted from the Information Catalogue which is held and published by the NHS Information Centre. Data collections from the NHS are subject to regulation by the Review of Central Returns (ROCR) process. ROCR is administered by the NHS Information Centre.

www.icapp.nhs.uk/infocat/default.aspx

www.ic.nhs.uk/services/the-review-of-central-returns-rocr

Data collections received by the Department from primary care trusts

Collection title	*Data requirement*	*Frequency*
National Capabilities Survey	Mandatory	Two yearly
Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA)—Collection of non-ESR items	Mandatory	Annual
Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA)—Employer Based Awards Reports	Mandatory	Annual
Attribution Data Set (ADS)	Mandatory	Annual
Bed availability and occupancy KH03	Mandatory	Annual
Charges for excess balances held in commercial bank accounts (FIS9) exercise	Mandatory	Annual
Diagnostic Departments: Radiology, nuclear medicine and medical physics	Mandatory	Annual
Emergency Continuity Business Preparedness	Mandatory	Annual
Health Checks for people with learning disabilities	Mandatory	Annual
Monitoring use of additional investment provided to support implementation of the End of Life Care (EOLC) Strategy proposal	Mandatory	Annual
National Child Measurement Programme	Mandatory	Annual
NHS Information Governance Assessment	Mandatory	Annual
Notification of Partnership Intentions between Health Services and Local Authorities using Section 75 Health Act Flexibilities or Section 28 Grant Arrangements	Mandatory	Annual
Primary Care Trust—Financial Returns (PFR 5 Forms)	Mandatory	Annual

Data collections received by the Department from primary care trusts

Collection title	*Data requirement*	*Frequency*
Programme Budgeting—NHS Trust and Foundation Trust Apportionment Reports	Mandatory	Annual
Three year funding for third sector organisations	Mandatory	Annual
Vital Signs	Mandatory	Annual
Collection of Influenza vaccine update data—immunisation of poultry workers	Mandatory	Annual and monthly
HPV immunisation programme—vaccine monitoring minimum dataset	Mandatory	Annual and monthly
HPV immunisation programme—vaccine monitoring minimum dataset (catch-up programme)	Mandatory	Annual and monthly
Mental Health Minimum Dataset (MHMDS)	Mandatory	Annual and quarterly
Equity ownership of special purpose vehicles in PFI schemes	Mandatory	Bi-annual
NHS Campus Closure Programme	Mandatory	Bi-annual
Database of nominated recipients at all GP practices in England for alerts to patient feedback on NHS Choices	Mandatory	Continuous
Sitreps weekly and daily	Part mandatory	Daily/weekly
18 Weeks Referral to Treatment (RTT) Times Monthly Data Collection	Mandatory	Monthly
Diagnostics Waiting Times and Activity Data Collection	Mandatory	Monthly
Genito-Urinary Medicine 48 Hour Access Target Monthly Monitoring (GUMAMM)	Mandatory	Monthly
Monitoring extended GP practice opening hours—part of Vital Signs	Mandatory	Monthly
Monthly Activity Flow	Mandatory	Monthly
National Direct Access Audiology PTL and WT Dataset	Mandatory	Monthly
Swine Flu vaccine uptake data from GP registered patients	Part mandatory	Monthly
Central Alerting System (CAS)	Mandatory	Ongoing
Non-medical Device Defects and Failures Reporting System	Mandatory	Ongoing
Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs)	Mandatory	Ongoing
2008-09 Financial Monitoring and Accounts	Mandatory	Quarterly
Chlamydia Core Dataset for national programme monitoring	Mandatory	Quarterly
Financial Information Systems (FIS), Family Health Services (FHS), General Ophthalmic Service	Mandatory	Quarterly
Health of the Population Return (HotPR)	Mandatory	Quarterly
Integrated Drug Treatment System for prisons Clinical Activity	Mandatory	Quarterly
Monitoring Revisions to new GP Contract-FIMS(FHS)4 and PFR1A-D data collection from PCTs 2006-7	Mandatory	Quarterly
Prevalence of Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks	Mandatory	Quarterly
QMAE Quarterly monitoring of accident and emergency	Mandatory	Quarterly
QMCO—Quarterly Monitoring of Cancelled operations	Mandatory	Quarterly
Quarterly Activity return	Mandatory	Quarterly
Redundancy Data Collection	Mandatory	Quarterly
Vital Signs Monitoring Returns	Mandatory	Quarterly
Vital Signs Monitoring Returns—continuation of lines	Mandatory	Quarterly
18 Weeks Referral to Treatment Primary Target List (18 Week RTT PTL)	Mandatory	Weekly
Health Care Worker Seasonal Flu and Swine Flu Vaccine Uptake	Mandatory	Weekly

Notes:
1. This table contains collections approved by the Review of Central Returns Committee (ROCR) as at 12 March 2010 where primary care trusts are a source organisation. It includes all mandatory and statutory ongoing returns from primary care trusts where the Department of Health is shown as the receiving organisation in the ROCR system. Voluntary returns are not included.
2. Other data are received on behalf of the Department by the NHS Information Centre and other arm's length bodies.
3. A part mandatory collection is one where some data items are required and some are optional.

Prosthetics

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 912W, on health services: armed forces, (1) what NHS expenditure on *(a)* prosthetic and *(b)* orthotic care was in each year from 2000-01 to 2009-10; and how much is budgeted for such care by each strategic health authority area in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15; [323241]

(2) how many people received *(a)* prosthetic and *(b)* orthotic care from the NHS in each year from 2000-01 to 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of the number of people who will receive such treatment in each strategic health authority area in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [323242]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not collected centrally. The provision of prosthetic and orthotic care and services is undertaken by a multidisciplinary clinical and assessment team. This may include NHS health and trauma care, mental health assessment, occupational health therapy, prostheses and orthotic devices and ongoing assessments and care.

Funding for prosthetic and orthotic care and services is provided within the NHS budget. NHS expenditure on separate or accumulative elements of care and services for the provision of prosthetic and orthotic care and services is not collected centrally.

Respite Care: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms he plans to put in place to hold primary care trusts to account for their spending on carers' breaks. [323919]

Phil Hope: Primary care trusts (PCTs) have flexibility to decide how much to invest on individual priorities in the light of their local circumstances and the NHS operating framework priorities.

Departmental officials have written to strategic health authorities (SHAs) asking them to identify where PCTs have agreed with their local authority to prioritise carers' support for the current year and those that are likely to prioritise it for the next year. Responses have started coming in from SHAs and officials are following up with those who have yet to respond. The replies received so far indicate that a number of PCTs have identified carers as a local priority, are increasing their level of investment and are planning and working jointly with their local authority partners to support carers. The need for further intervention will be determined once all responses have been analysed.

Respite Care: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to Leeds, North-West primary care trusts for carer's respite in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [323766]

Phil Hope: The national carers strategy, "Carers at the Heart of 21st Century Families and Communities", identified the funding that was available within primary care trust (PCT) baselines to improve support for carers. A copy has already been placed in the Library. It announced that £150 million would be given to PCTs to provide carers' breaks (£50 million in 2009-10, and £100 million in 2010-11). Although this is new money, it is part of PCT baseline allocations and PCTs have not been advised of individual sums for carers' breaks. It is for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally, taking into account their local circumstances and priorities as set out in the national health service operating framework.

Department directors of NHS Performance and Adult Social Care Performance have written to strategic health authorities to identify where PCTs have agreed with their local authority to prioritise carers' support for the current year, and those that are likely to prioritise it for the next year. This information will help ensure the Department has a rounded picture when considering the priority afforded to carers in future planning rounds. The Department has ensured that the NHS Operating Framework for 2010-11 brings out the role carers can make as expert partners in care, as well as the need to provide support for them. This includes the provision of carers' breaks.

Skin Cancer: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under and *(b)* over 18 years (i) have been treated for and (ii) have died as a result of skin cancer in each London primary care trust in each year since 2000. [323848]

Ann Keen: The information requested on the number of people treated for skin cancer is not collected centrally. A table, which displays a count of finished admission data by primary care trust where skin cancer was a primary diagnosis, has been placed in the Library.

Stem Cells

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what reports he has received on treatments for *(a)* children and *(b)* adults with disabling conditions developed as a result of (i) human embryo, (ii) embryonic stem cell and (iii) non-embryonic stem cell research since 2006; and if he will make a statement; [323122]

(2) what reports he has received on progress in developing cures for diseases of *(a)* adult stem cell, *(b)* embryonic stem cell and (iii) human embryo research since July 2006; and if he will make a statement. [323123]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not have a record of any specific reports it has received on research into treatments or cures for diseases developed from a specific human stem cell source since 2006.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the internal background note for each parliamentary question tabled by the hon. member for Southend West and answered by his Department since January 2009. [323139]

Phil Hope: The information requested could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

PRIME MINISTER

Sir David Omand

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister whether the Intelligence and Security Committee has received the report of Sir David Omand referred to in paragraph 177 of the annual report of that Committee for 2007-08; what the reasons are for the time taken to disclose that report to the Committee; and if he will make a statement. [323749]

The Prime Minister: Sir David Omand's report was sent to the Intelligence and Security Committee in November 2008. The Government accepted all of Sir David's conclusions and have implemented each of the recommendations in the report as far as is practicable.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to whom a complaint from *(a)* a student aged 19 years or over and *(b)* an apprentice aged 19 years or over and attending a (i) further education college and (ii) sixth form college will be referred if the student is dissatisfied with that college's response to their complaint after 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [323298]

Kevin Brennan: The current policy for complaints from a student aged 19 years or over is that they can complain to the relevant regional office of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) which funds the further education college or sixth form college in question. The LSC would only consider such complaints once the college's own internal complaints procedure has been fully exhausted.

From 1 April 2010, complaints from learners aged 19 years and over will be dealt with by the chief executive of Skills Funding. Complaints about sixth form colleges will be dealt with by the relevant local authority and subsequently directed to the Local Government Ombudsman if the complainant continues to remain dissatisfied. All complaints from Apprentices will be directed to the Skills Funding Agency after exhausting the provider mechanisms.

The Legal Team of the Learning and Skills Council are currently revising the complaints procedures for both the Skills Funding Agency and the Young People's Learning Agency in preparation for the transition on 1 April 2010.

Apprentices

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the budget for apprenticeships for those aged 19 years and over was in the last five years. [323223]

Kevin Brennan: The breakdown of funding allocations for those aged 19 and over in the last five years is as follows:

19+ apprenticeship funding participation (England)

	£ million
2005-06	232
2006-07	218
2007-08	229
2008-09	347
2009-10	390

Sources:
2005-06: LSC Annual Report and Accounts 2005-06. 2006-07 and 2007-08: LSC Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08. 2008-09: LSC Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09. 2009-10 Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11.

Broadband

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* British Telecom and *(b)* other internet service providers on testing lines for faults known to affect broadband services; and if he will make a statement. [323549]

Mr. Timms: I have had no such discussions.

Credit

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what research has been undertaken by his Department on the level of interest rates charged in the *(a)* legal and *(b)* illegal home credit market; and what the highest rate of interest charged was in each such case. [323174]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* Research carried out for the DTI by Policis in 2004 gave an example of an APR in the legal home credit market of 497 per cent. The Competition Commission investigation of the home credit market in 2006 stated that APRs in the home credit market range from 150 to 500 per cent. One of the remedies introduced by the Commission was the requirement for all home credit providers to include their products on a website, lenders compared, to enable customer comparison of prices. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation reported that the break-even APR for a not-for-profit home credit company was between 123 and 129 per cent. The OFT is reviewing the high cost credit market, including the home credit market, and they will report shortly.

The Department commissioned a research report into the scope and extent of illegal money lending in the UK by Policis and the Personal Finance Research Centre (PFRC) in 2006. The total cost of credit charged by illegal money lenders was on average £185 per £100 advanced, approximately three times the cost of credit from the highest cost legal lenders and more than double what people expected to pay. Loan sharks' interest rates can vary from 500 per cent. up to as high as 11 million per cent. in some extreme cases.

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department and its non-departmental bodies are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323074]

Mr. McFadden: This Department adheres wherever possible to the key objectives of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI), which advises public sector bodies how they can specify higher animal welfare standards, including farm assurance schemes and higher level schemes such as the RSPCA's Freedom Foods standards. These objectives run in parallel to those of our contracted catering supplier, BaxterStorey, which form part of our policies that result in our approach to sustainable and ethical procurement. BaxterStorey are committed to buying 100 per cent. British meat, both reared and processed and are accredited to the Red Tractor Farm Assurance Scheme, demonstrating robust support for enhanced animal welfare, environmental responsibility, quality produce and supporting British producers.

All eggs used on the BIS estate are British, Lion Brand standard and free range, all milk used in the kitchens, cafes and hospitality service is British.

Information about the Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320409]

Mr. McFadden: Foreign language coaching is not provided for staff or Ministers in BIS. We do provide access to language training in a range of languages including French, Spanish and Portuguese, although the information about which languages have been studied is not centrally monitored. This information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

In the last 12 months the following language training has been funded:

Ministers

£0.00

Civil servants

£29,529 (including £5,372 spent within UKTI).

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years. [320584]

Mr. McFadden: The following reimbursable expenses have been paid to the Department's ministerial special advisers during the last five years:

Financial year	*Total expenses paid (£)*
2004-05	1,608.89
2005-06	1,741.70
2006-07	1,325.08
2007-08	807.72
2008-09	590.74

All reimbursed expenses are for duties undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Code, Civil Service Management Code and the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323469]

Mr. McFadden: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to questions in the formulation "if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997" could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323856]

Mr. McFadden: The Department obtained information from internal data sources and a number of other databases including the Local Area Labour Force survey and the Annual Population Survey in order to answer these questions. The relevant sources were identified in each answer. Given the availability of the information, disproportionate costs were not a factor in providing answers.

Estate Agents

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of regulation of estate agents; and if he will make a statement. [323260]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of Fair Trading recently published a market study report entitled Home Buying and Selling, which considered the effectiveness of regulation in respect of estate agents. The Government will respond to the OFT's recommendations addressed to them in due course.

Government Assistance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what initiatives announced by his Department since November 2009 to assist *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* individuals (i) have been implemented and (ii) remain to be implemented; on what date each was implemented; and if he will make a statement. [321887]

The Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have taken measures that have assisted hundreds of thousands of companies across the country.

Large numbers of businesses have benefited from the actions taken to stabilise the banking system and keep credit flowing.

The Business Payment Support Service, launched in November 2008, supports small businesses to make use of the Time to Pay scheme which allows companies to spread their tax payments over a timetable they can afford. This was extended at PBR 2009. Since its launch, the Government have arranged some 305,000 agreements, with more coming through every day. Some companies have been able to benefit more than once, allowing over 160,000 companies to defer over £5.2 billion in tax. The Business Link Health Checks has provided over 117,000 businesses with free and impartial advice. In addition, regional development agencies help hundreds of thousands of businesses each year. Thousands of businesses have also been able to claim tax relief which has been extended on losses from one to three years. The Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme is enabling additional bank lending to thousands of small and medium-sized businesses, extended in PBR 2009. Through Train to Gain, over 80,000 businesses have received support to enable their staff to undergo training. In total, well over 300,000 businesses have received support. And in addition, the PBR 2009 decision to further defer the increase in the Small Companies' Rate of corporation tax from next month, will help around 850,000 small businesses.

1.8 million properties owned by business will also be able to improve cash flow by spreading an increase in business rates over the next three years which allows for the deferral of up to £700 million.

The Growth Capital Fund to attract private sector investment for UK small and medium-sized businesses will be implemented later this year.

The UK Innovation Investment Fund is backing British innovation, currently consisting of £325 million of public and private investment with the potential to raise £1 billion of investment over the next 10 years. The Government are also proposing to reduce the burden of regulation enabling small businesses to get on with their work.

There are a number of other initiatives to help individuals, especially young people. For example, the Government are:

Building on the September Guarantee that ensures all 16 and 17-year-olds are offered a suitable place in learning, by guaranteeing the offer of a place on an Entry to Employment programme—for those young people aged 16-18 who are not yet ready or able to enter apprenticeship, employment or further learning opportunities;

Providing a new Young Person's guarantee for 18 to 24-year-olds to ensure access to jobs, training and work experience opportunities after six months claiming for jobseeker's allowance; and

Creating an additional 35,000 new advanced apprenticeships for 19 to 30-year-olds over the next two years, almost doubling capacity and creating a new class of British technician—filling a longstanding gap in the British labour market.

Further measures will be announced in the Budget.

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent reports he has received on *(a)* anti-Semitic and *(b)* anti-Israel speeches made by speakers at British university campuses; and if he will make a statement. [323656]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has received a number of letters from Jewish students following a Jewish student lobby of Parliament about "hate speakers" on some university campuses. My right hon. Friend the Member for Rotherham (Mr. MacShane) has also written to me about a reported anti-Israel speaker appearing at two universities.

Decisions about external speakers must rest with universities themselves. In this area universities are bound by the law both in protecting freedom of speech on campus, even if that free expression is controversial, and protecting students and staff against harassment or violence. The Government have made clear that there is no place for anti-Semitism or any other form of racism or intolerance in HE. Universities have access to guidance from both Government and the sector itself on promoting good campus relations, which draw out the considerations institutions need to give to free expression on campus and to addressing illegal behaviour.

There is a very clear dividing line set out in law between political debate, discussion of doctrine or faith and incitement to commit or glorify violence or terrorism. This line should not be thought vague. When the law is broken on campus those responsible must be reported to the relevant authorities. There is both a moral duty and importantly a legal obligation to do so.

Housing: Sales

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many sale and rent back transactions for residential property there were in the last 12 months. [323181]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have extended the scope of FSA regulation to include the sale and rent back market. Regulation will bring important protection for consumers in this market, preventing exploitation of vulnerable homeowners and providing means of redress for those who experience problems.

Full regulation of this market will commence in June 2010 but, in recognition of stakeholders' concerns, the Government have put in place real protections for homeowners now by introducing an interim regulatory regime in July 2009.

The FSA has started gathering data on the number of sale and rent back agreements entered into by regulated firms since the outset of the interim regime. However, figures are not available at this early stage.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to provide a response to the Office of Fair Trading's recent recommendations on the regulation of home buying and selling. [323261]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 154W.

Insolvency: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses employing *(a)* fewer than 10, *(b)* between 11 and 50, *(c)* between 51 and 100, *(d)* between 101 and 200 and *(e)* over 200 employees have been declared insolvent in Leeds, North-West in each year since 2000. [323828]

Ian Lucas: Official statistics covering corporate insolvencies are not currently available at a sub-national level within England and Wales.

Additionally, the number of employees is not recorded on the source datasets.

Self-employed traders may be declared bankrupt (or enter into an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA)). While official regional figures down to constituency level for self-employed bankrupts are maintained from calendar year 2000, the number of employees (if any) is not available.

Internet

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has made an assessment of the likely effects on small businesses which provide access to the internet of the provisions proposed in the Digital Economy Bill; and if he will make a statement. [323561]

Mr. Timms: This Department and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport made an assessment of the likely effects of the provisions proposed in the Digital Economy Bill in the Bill's Impact Assessments, republished on 16 March 2010 to take account of amendments made in the House of Lords. Copies are available in the Commons Vote Office and will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who was invited to the LSC Recognition Event referred to in item 3.1 of the Learning and Skills Council national council minutes of 9 December 2009; and what the cost was of the event. [323222]

Kevin Brennan: The event was to recognise the significant contribution of LSC non-executive members to the learning and skills agenda prior to the organisation's abolition on 31 March and to encourage their continuing support to public service in the future. A selection of LSC national council members, regional council chairs and members, along with a limited number of key personnel from LSC national and regional offices were invited to the event. A total of 104 people attended.

The total cost of the event was £3,554.

Learning Disability

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate has been made of the number of learners with learning difficulties and or disabilities who will be categorised under the provision of the Adult Learner Responsive sub-total for the Foundation Learning (excluding Skills for Life) category in the Strategy Document, Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11, November 2009 in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [323202]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for the funding of further education (FE) and training for adult learners aged 19 and over.

It is for learners to declare whether or not they consider themselves to have a learning difficulty and/or disability (LDD). As a result, the actual number of learners in this category accessing FE and skills provision will vary from year to year depending on demand, but has been around 200,000 each year from 2006/07 to 2008/09 academic year (the latest whole year for which data is available).

Within this overall total, learners with LDD follow various courses, depending on their personal preferences or the nature of their disability. It is therefore not possible to say how many learners of the total with LDD will pursue courses that would be categorised as Foundation Learning through Adult Learner Responsive route. The Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11, does, however, set out the commitment that the total adult FE and Skills budget will provide sufficient funding to maintain volumes at the level of previous years.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any businesses in ports have informed *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Insolvency Service that they have gone into liquidation as a consequence of their payments of backdated business rates in the last six months. [323045]

Ian Lucas: The Department has had no contact on this issue.

There is insufficient detailed information held centrally by the Insolvency Service, and in a readily available format, to provide an answer to this question. This is because:

businesses in ports is not a standard industry classification and therefore is not recorded;

addresses are not available to then be able to count companies giving a port as part of their address;

causes of failure of companies in liquidation are not recorded centrally.

Research: Diabetes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the causes of type 1 diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [323116]

Mr. Lammy: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The MRC funds a broad portfolio of diabetes research amounting to £28.1 million in 2008-09, of which £6.5 million was directly relevant to type 1 diabetes. Much of the research funded by MRC involves both type 1 and type 2, and often includes both underpinning studies and studies on the prevention, treatment and the downstream consequences of type 1 diabetes.

The MRC always welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding. Awards are made according to their scientific quality and importance to human health. The MRC does not normally allocate funds to particular topics, and research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. When appropriate, high quality research in particular areas of strategic importance may be given priority in competition for funds, but research excellence and importance to health continue to be the primary considerations in funding decisions.

RRS Discovery

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the reasons are for the time taken to announce the preferred bidder for the Natural Environment Research Council's research vessel. [323010]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The Natural Environment Research Council is still going through the formal procedures in relation to this procurement. No announcement will be made until these are complete.

Sheffield Forgemasters: Loans

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what rate of interest will be charged on the £80 million loan to Sheffield Forgemasters announced on 17 March 2010; what the repayment period is of the loan; what guarantee his Department sought from Sheffield Forgemasters in respect of that loan; and whether the European Commission has approved that loan under state aid rules. [323742]

Mr. McFadden: The offer of conditional support to SFIL is in the form of a £80 million direct loan. Although the key heads of the deal have been agreed some details will not be finalised until after commercial due-diligence is completed and European Commission approval has been granted.

Wi-Fi

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of *(a)* hotels, *(b)* cafés, *(c)* bars, *(d)* train operators, *(e)* launderettes and *(f)* other small businesses that provide open wi-fi services; and if he will make a statement. [323550]

Mr. Timms: I have no plans to make such estimates.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of business users of open wi-fi; and if he will make a statement. [323562]

Mr. Timms: No such estimates have been made.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Danny Alexander: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to answer question *(a)* 315627 and *(b)* 315628, on debt recovery agencies, tabled on 1 February 2010 by the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey. [323439]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1020W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 360W, on aerials: planning permission, what his Department's timetable is for amending planning policy guidance on telecommunications. [323188]

Mr. Ian Austin: The review of planning policy guidance note 8: Telecommunications has not yet been programmed.

Affordable Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many new *(a)* low cost home ownership and *(b)* social homes were (i) flats and (ii) houses in each local authority area in each year since 1997; [323840]

(2) how many new *(a)* low cost home ownership and *(b)* social homes had (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three and (iv) four or more bedrooms in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [323814]

Mr. Ian Austin: Tables will be placed in the Library of the House which shows the number of low-cost home ownership and social rented homes delivered through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme by the number of bedrooms and by houses or flats for each local authority area. These figures are only available from the Homes and Communities Agency's Investment Management System, so will not cover the total number of affordable homes.

Allotments

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Colchester of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2003-4W, on allotments, if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter from his Department to the Government Office responsible for determining applications for consent for disposal of statutory allotments in England. [323144]

Barbara Follett: A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Audit Commission: Consolidated Communications

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 474W, on Consolidated Communications, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the briefing notes on legislative issues and policy announcements produced by Consolidated Communications for the Audit Commission. [323108]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 23 March 2010:

The Audit Commission ceased its contract with Consolidated Communications in October 2008. All retained briefing notes have been placed in the Library as below:

Pre-Budget 2006 report

Budget 2006 briefing

Overview of the London Assembly's Audit and Inspection Committee

Distribution of reports to Parliamentarians

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the new inspection arrangements for local government

Biography of the Children's Commissioner

Background information on healthy eating campaigns

Calendar of housing events

List of housing stakeholders

Briefing note on the Department for Communities and Local Government

Biography of Liam Byrne MP

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 475W, on council tax, how much gross council tax revenue in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* real terms in 2008-09 prices was raised by each local billing authority in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) 2008-09. [323109]

Barbara Follett: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table containing details of the amount of gross council tax revenue in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms at 2008-09 prices raised in each local authority area in England in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) 2008-09.

The data are taken from the Quarterly Return of Council Tax and Non-domestic rates (QRC4) forms completed annually by all billing authorities in England and the real terms data are given at 2008-09 prices using the retail price index.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 985W, on council tax: billing, what the cost was of each of the two telephone surveys. [323167]

Barbara Follett: The telephone surveys undertaken as part of the review of the operation of the 2008 regulations governing the inclusion of efficiency information on and with council tax bills were carried out by existing members of staff in the Department in the course of their normal activities; no additional costs were incurred by the Department.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations his Department has received from trade unions on proposals for a council tax freeze in the last 12 months. [323309]

Barbara Follett: The Department has received no such representations.

Council Tax: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average band D council tax was in each London borough in each year from 1997 to 2010. [323822]

Barbara Follett: Details of the average band D council tax in each London borough in each year from 1997-98 to 2009-10 are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/

Data for 2010-11 will be available from 24 March.

Council Tax: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of council tax was set for a band D property, including all precepts apart from parish council precepts, in each *(a)* district council and *(b)* unitary authority in Yorkshire and the Humber in each year from 2002-03 to 2010-11. [323367]

Barbara Follett: Details of the level of the band D council tax, including all precepts apart from parish council precepts, in each *(a)* district council and *(b)* unitary authority in Yorkshire and the Humber region in each year from 2002-03 to 2009-10 are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/

Data for 2010-11 will be available from 24 March.

Councillors: Codes of Practice

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the secondary legislation required to bring into force the new councillor code of conduct will not be considered in accordance with the originally planned timetable. [323161]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The priorities for Government at this time are the economy and actions to support a sustainable recovery. We must make the best use of parliamentary time and, while I recognise the importance of conduct matters, there is a robust code of conduct for local authority members already in place which is being used very successfully by local authority members and conduct regime practitioners.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance the Standards Board for England has issued to local authorities on the employment of external investigators to conduct investigations into alleged breaches of the code of conduct for councillors. [323162]

Ms Rosie Winterton: General guidance on the delegation of investigations is included in the 'Local investigations guidance' issued by the Standards Board for England, and specific guidance on outsourcing investigations to another organisation or individual is included in their guidance 'How to conduct an investigation guide'. Both sets of guidance are available on the Standards Board's website at:

http://www.standardsforengland.gov.uk/Media/Local%20investigations%20and%20other%20action.pdf

and

http://www.standardsforengland.gov.uk/media/How%20to%20conduct%20and%20investigation.pdf

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1498W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign. [321934]

Barbara Follett: The Department spent £90,650 on redesigning its corporate website in 2005.

For information relating to the redesign of the Department's corporate website in August 2007, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 264W.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department and its predecessor have commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321996]

Barbara Follett: The Department's intranet was redesigned in 2007 as part of a Government-led project to review, rationalise and converge its websites. For information relating to the costs of the redesign, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 264W. As design costs were shared across three sites; the corporate website, intranet and Info41ocol, we are unable to report intranet costs alone.

Departmental Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Career Transition Centre (CTC) was established in his Department's headquarters; how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff of each (i) grade, (ii) ethnicity and (iii) disability have registered with the CTC; and for how long on average members of each category of staff have been registered with the CTC since it was established. [322708]

Barbara Follett: The Department's redeployment pool, known as the Career Transition Centre (CTC), was established in central Communities and Local Government in April 2008. It includes staff returning from loans, secondments, and career breaks, as well as those currently without permanent posts due to restructuring.

210 staff have registered with the CTC, 189 of which were *(a)* full-time and 21 were *(b)* part-time staff. The following table shows the breakdown of these figures in terms of (i) grade (ii) ethnicity and (iii) disability, and the average length of time staff in each category were registered with the CTC. The numbers are small enough in a range of grades for individual staff to be potentially identifiable by their grade and ethnic background. The breakdown is therefore set out in a range of grades.

Number of CTC registered staff

	(a) Full-time staff	*(b) Part-time staff*	*Total*	*Average length of time registered with the CTC in weeks*
(i) Grade				
EM3-EO	91	9	100	27
HEO-G7	89	12	101	16
G6-SCS	9	0	9	26
(ii) Ethnicity				
Black and Asian Minority Ethnic	61	5	66	23
Diversity Data Not Completed	42	4	46	26
Do Not Wish to Disclose	2	0	2	1
White/ White: Any Background	84	12	96	20
(iii) Disability				
Data Not Completed	41	4	45	26
Do Not Wish to Disclose	3	1	4	3
No	125	13	138	20
Yes	20	3	23	27
Total	189	21	210	22

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323464]

Barbara Follett: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of each issue of his Department's in-house staff magazine distributed in the last 12 months. [323983]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government was created on 5 May 2006. Copies of every issue of the staff magazine produced up until early December 2007 were placed in the Library of the House in response to a question from the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1152W. Copies of the Department's staff magazine have since been placed in the Library on a regular basis. I can confirm that the most recent edition is now available.

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many senior civil servants of each grade in his Department were *(a)* given early retirement, *(b)* given severance and *(c)* received payment for the early termination of a fixed-term appointment in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such departure. [322709]

Barbara Follett: The following table shows the numbers of senior civil servants given early retirement in each year since 2005.

	Scheme	Grade SCS1	Cost SCS1 (£)	Grade SCS2	Cost SCS2 (£)	Grade SCS3	Cost SCS3 (£)	Total cost (£)
2005-06	Early retirement	6	1,417,467	2	470,448	0	0	1,887,915
2006-07	Early retirement	3	459,456	2	605,388	1	1,154,201	2,219,045
2007-08	Early retirement	5	876,431	1	395,725	0	0	1,272,156
2008-09	Early retirement	3	1,003,032	0	0	0	0	1,003,032

The following table shows the numbers of senior civil servants given severance in each year since 2005.

	Scheme	Grade SCS1	Cost SCS1 (£)	Grade SCS2	Cost SCS2 (£)	Grade SCS3	Cost SCS3 (£)	Total cost (£)
2005-06	Severance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006-07	Severance	0	0	1	136,557	0	0	136,557
2007-08	Severance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008-09	Severance	1	183,054	0	0	0	0	183,054

The figures for the current year 2009-10 have not been provided as the year end totals are not yet available.

There is no documentation to show that any senior civil servant has received payment for the early termination of a fixed term appointment.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department and its agencies. [322569]

Barbara Follett: I will arrange for a copy of the results of the Civil Service People Survey for this Department and the relevant agencies to be placed in the Library of the House in due course.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322642]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government operates a robust access control system, supported by internal and external CCTV cameras.

CLG facilities operate a pass-wearing policy for all staff and visitors while on Communities and Local Government premises. The system is regularly promoted and staff are encouraged to challenge anyone seen not wearing the appropriate pass. There are also regular security awareness campaigns to remind staff of their security responsibilities.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to Questions in the formulation "if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Members' constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997" could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323859]

Barbara Follett: The answers provided refer to publicly available data sources. This information was provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any reduction in expenditure arising from a reduction in the frequency of a household rubbish collection service would qualify as an efficiency saving that can be reported on the efficiency return of a local authority's council tax bill. [323301]

Barbara Follett: An efficiency gain is generated when a council restructures service provision to provide a more efficient service to the same client group in a way that maintains overall output and service quality. A reduction in the frequency of a household rubbish collection service could qualify as a valid efficiency if the net costs of waste collection fall while service quality is maintained.

Local authorities have been required to include efficiency information on council tax bills and leaflets since the 2009-10 billing round. Regulations require them to

publish efficiency gains calculated in accordance with the guidance published on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/reportingvfmguide

The guidance requires local authorities to report the net total of current cash-releasing value for money gains that have impacted since the start of the 2008-09 financial period. They are not required to report efficiency gains broken down by individual service sectors.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 365W, on Empty Dwelling Management Orders, if he will place in the Library a copy of each presentation and handout delivered at the seminar of 23 April 2009. [323190]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on the 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 453W.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 212W, on energy performance certificates, whether quality assurance procedures identified errors relating to the formula used to determine energy ratings for the energy performance certificate register during the period 18 September 2008 to June 2009; and if he will make a statement. [322353]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* CLG validates and approves all software for producing energy performance certificates (EPCs). There were no errors in our approved software between 18 September 2008 and June 2009.

Fire Services: Greater London

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest go-live date is for the regional fire control room in London. [322374]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* Under current planning assumptions the regional fire control centre for London is due to become operational during September 2011. In view of the proximity of this date to the Olympic Games, I have written to the Chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority to ask if they wish to move this date back until after the Olympics. I have also offered to explore the possibility of moving their current control into the Regional Control Centre so that London can benefit from the facilities and enhanced resilience the new building offers during the Olympics.

Government Offices for the Regions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which Government Office regions have regional European Strategy Boards been established. [323086]

Ms Rosie Winterton: European Strategy Boards have been established in the Government Office regions for North-East England, the West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber. Similar groups have been established in and the Government Office regions for the North-West and East of England.

Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 485W, on Government Offices for the Regions: finance, what the aggregate programme expenditure was of Government Offices for the Regions in each year since 1997-98. [323099]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Aggregate programme expenditure administered by the Government Office Network for 2008-09 and the projections for 2009-10 are provided in my response to questions 323101/323145.

We do not hold figures for earlier years. In these years the Government Office Network had delegated authority to spend against sponsor Departments programmes and these figures are recorded in the accounts of the respective Departments. The Government Office Network currently has 12 sponsor Departments:

Department of Communities and Local Government
Business Innovation and Skills
Department of Transport
Department for Children, Families and Schools
Department of Work and Pensions
Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs
Home Office
Ministry of Justice
Department of Energy and Climate Change
Department of Culture, Media and Sport
Cabinet Office
Department of Health

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of his Department's programme budgets were administered by Government Offices for the Regions in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [323102]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The programme budgets administered by the Government Office Network on behalf of Communities and Local Government for both 2008-09 and 2009-10 are listed as follows. There is one exception; Public Service Agreement 16 Challenge Fund began being administered by the Government Office Network in 2009-10.

Regional Assembly Grant
Regional Housing Pot
Regional Chambers Fund
Disabled Facilities Grant
European Regional Development Fund—Objectives 1 and 2 (defrayed expenditure in respect of 2000-06)
New Deal for Communities
Preventing Violent Extremism
Local Area Agreements
Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant
PSA 16 Challenge Fund (began being administered by the Government Office Network in 2009-10)

Green Belt

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1139W, on the green belt, in respect of which broad locations each regional spatial strategy recommends a review of green belt designation. [323996]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1318-20W.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 359W, on home information packs, if he will place in the Library a copy of the final report of the working group on condition information in the home buying and selling process. [319010]

Mr. Ian Austin: We will place a copy of the final report of the working group on condition information in the home buying and selling process in the Library in due course.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 269W, on home information packs, on what date the final report of the working group on condition information in the home buying and selling process was submitted to his Department; and when he plans to publish his response to that report. [319828]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The final report of the working group on condition information in the home buying and selling process was submitted to the Department on 17 December 2009. We will set out our response in due course.

Housing: Conferences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by the Homes and Communities Agency on *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation for employees attending the MIPIM international property conference in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [323247]

Barbara Follett: The Homes and Communities Agency was formed on 1 December2008 and did not therefore attend the 2008 MIPIM conference. In 2009 the agency spent £2,983 on travel and £29,321 on accommodation.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees of the Homes and Communities Agency attended the MIPIM international property conference in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [323257]

Barbara Follett: HCA was formed on 1 December 2008 and did not attend the MIPIM conference in that year. Seven members of HCA staff attended the MIPIM conference in 2009.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much he expects his Department to spend on *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation for (i) Ministers and (ii) officials attending the MIPIM international property conference in March 2010. [323258]

Barbara Follett: No departmental Ministers or officials are attending the MIPIM conference in March 2010.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department expect to attend the MIPIM international property conference in March 2010. [323259]

Barbara Follett: None.

Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of new *(a)* affordable and *(b)* social homes were built to Code Level (i) 1, (ii) 2, (iii) 3, (iv) 4, (v) 5 and (vi) 6 in each of the last three years. [315992]

Mr. Ian Austin: It is not possible to identify affordable and social homes separately.

Under the NAHP, achievement of Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) became a required standard for bids for funding to be allocated from April 2008. Homes built in 2006-07 and 2007-08 were therefore largely completed before the Code became a funding requirement. During this time, EcoHomes was the applicable standard. The following table shows the number of schemes meeting the EcoHomes standard in the last three years.

	2008-09		*2007-08*		*2006-07*	
ECO Homes certification	*Total completions*	*Percentage of total completions*	*Total completions*	*Percentage of total completions*	*Total completions*	*Percentage of total completions*
Pass	1,133	2.41	1,544	3.40	3,371	9.28
Good	6,286	13.36	9,003	19.80	13,296	36.62
Very good	25,610	54.43	20,188	44.41	6,623	18.24
Excellent	1,176	2.50	674	1.48	366	1.01
Total completions	47,049	—	45,462	—	36,308	—

Housing: Regeneration

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made by the Home and Communities Agency in its Single Conversation process in north Kent; and if he will make a statement. [323058]

John Healey: The Local Investment Plan (LIP) for North Kent arising from the Single Conversation is due to be finalised by the end of March. It will then be considered by the Thames Gateway Kent Leaders Board. Further information, can be obtained from the Homes and Communities Agency's south-east regional office.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has allocated to the local authority business growth incentive scheme in each year to date; and whether he expects the scheme to continue after 2010-11. [323308]

Barbara Follett: For the period 2005-06 to 2007-08, £1 billion was allocated to LABGI: £935 million to England and £65 million to Wales. The National Assembly for Wales has been responsible for distribution of its LABGI allocation.

In England, the Government have given the following total sums in LABGI grants each year:

	£
2005-06	115,455,797
2006-07	328,003,805
2007-08	92,152,517
2008-09	396,194,175
2009-10	50,000,000

The Government have recently indicated that they intend to distribute LABGI grant totalling £50 million in 2010-11.

Decisions about the future of LABGI will be taken as part of the next spending review.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department applocated per capita to each local authority in England in *(a)* 2009 real terms prices and *(b)* cash terms in each year since 1997. [323306]

Barbara Follett: The Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses published at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa09_chapter7.pdf

by HM Treasury show central Government grants to local government. The outturn figures are analysed between Departments but not between local authorities. The level of data analysis requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will direct the Audit Commission not to incur expenditure on lobbying activity against proposals to abolish comprehensive area assessments. [323627]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's Accounting Officer has already written to all the Department's executive public bodies, including the Audit Commission, to remind them of their obligations when appointing public relations or other consultants, including that it will always be an improper use of public funds for NDPBs to employ PR or other consultants to lobby parliament or Government Departments in an attempt to influence Government policy or obtain higher funding. A copy of that letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Local Government: Bank Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have had requests to capitalise Icelandic banking losses refused; and what the grounds for refusal were in each case. [323156]

Barbara Follett: The list of authorities who applied for capitalisation in 2009-10 on the grounds of exceptional financial difficulties and whose applications were refused is available on the Department's public website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/xls/1451009.xls

It is for each authority to determine whether they wish to indicate the precise circumstances which led them to make an application under the exceptional financial difficulties category.

In each case, the application was refused because it did not meet the criteria for exceptional financial difficulties contained within the guidance to authorities. This is available on the Department's public website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1197739.pdf

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the speech of the Minister for Local Government and Community Cohesion of 28 February 2006, on driving improvement: beyond CPA, what steps his Department has taken to implement double devolution since February 2006. [323228]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since the then Minister for Local Government and Community Cohesion delivered his speech in February 2006, the Department for Communities and Local Government has published two White Papers and passed two major pieces of legislation, the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 which clearly demonstrate the actions taken to implement "double devolution". A key element of this work has been the introduction in 2008 of the new local performance framework, which aimed to lessen the burden and bureaucracy of assessment on local government, by reducing the number of performance indicators on which councils are measured from around 1,200 to 188—and replacing the old Comprehensive Performance Assessment with the new, lighter touch Comprehensive Area Assessment in April last year. We have already reduced the number of inspection days in councils by a third, while the cost of the independent inspection has been reduced by 30 per cent.

We have also increased financial freedom and stability to local government through the first ever three-year finance settlement, reduced ring-fencing, and devolved powers to local authorities, enabling them to create parish councils, make and enforce certain byelaws and increasing their choice in democratic processes such as electoral schemes and leadership style. We have strengthened the opportunity for local people to take action for themselves, promoting the transfer of assets from local government to local people where these could be better run for community benefits, and introducing community contracts, where residents and local agencies agree on the priorities for their area and the action both will take to achieve them. We have funded the Participatory Budgeting Unit to support local authorities in activities to involve local people in prioritising specified budgets and have increased councillors' powers to raise issues up the agenda of the local authority by introducing the Councillor Call for Action, which enables any councillor to refer an issue to the overview and scrutiny committee. We have also recently passed legislation that will give citizens greater power to hold local authorities to account and influence local services. This includes a new duty for local authorities to respond to petitions from local people; and the extension of scrutiny arrangements, enabling local people, through their councillors, to influence decisions which affect their day to day lives and give them more say over what their council is doing for them and complementing measures to increase engagement and empowerment in key local services.

The "Strengthening Local Democracy" public consultation last July, and our response published on 5 February, affirms our continuing commitment to principles of devolution at all levels. In addition, "Putting the Front-line first: Smarter Government" published on 9 December sets out how Government will meet new challenges and deliver better public services for lower costs by: driving up standards through strengthening the roles of citizens and civic society; freeing up public services by recasting the relationship between the centre and the front-line and streamlining central Government, saving money through sharper delivery.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has allocated to local authorities in performance reward grants in each year to date; and how much such funding has been allocated for *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [323302]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 961W. As part of the comprehensive spending review 2007 £340 million was allocated to the current round of performance reward grant funding.

This Department has published guidance on the operation of the reward scheme; it is available on the Department's website:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/laarewardguidance2009

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects updated figures for the take-up rate of the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme next to be published. [323103]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1297W.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 915W, on multiple occupation, what steps his Department is taking in respect of local authorities which have not reported the Register of Licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation data to his Department; and for what reason such data were not intended to be part of the National Indicator set. [323030]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local authorities not currently supplying data to the Department for the Register of Licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation (ROLHMO) are contacted on a monthly basis for updates as to when they will be in a position to supply data. It is not a statutory requirement for local authorities to provide data.

The collection of information from local authorities serves a range of purposes. The national indicator set is limited to measures for Government's priority outcomes. There are many services and activities undertaken by local government, alone or in partnership, which are not directly reflected in the national indicator set but which will continue to be important to local areas and the people they serve. It is more appropriate that these are performance-managed locally—with local authorities setting priorities and reviewing performance.

Non-Domestic Rates

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average change is in *(a)* business rate valuations and *(b)* business rates payable between 2009-10 and 2010-11 taking into account the rate poundage and transitional relief in each local authority area in England. [322346]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* I have placed a table containing the average change in *(a)* rateable value and *(b)* the national non-domestic rates bill after transitional relief in the Library of the House.

The data used to produce the average change in rateable value between 2009-10 and 2010-11 are consistent with the statistical release titled "Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists—England and Wales" published on 18 December 2009. A copy of this statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

No estimates of the average change in bills have been made, as these contain not only transitional relief but all other reliefs, some determined at the billing authorities' discretion. Therefore it is not possible to estimate the likely bill of a hereditament.

For the purpose of modelling the 2010 Transitional Relief scheme, the Notional Chargeable Amount (NCA) was calculated. The NCA for a given year is the product of the rateable value and that year's small business multiplier. The NCA is then compared to the previous

year's reference value increased by the caps. The minimum of these two values was used as a proxy for the bill after transition.

The data used for this modelling are consistent with the consultation document titled "The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England". Details on the methodology and assumptions used can be found on page 49 of the consultation. The assumptions underlying this modelling include zero inflation, which does not reflect the latest information available, and adjustments for appeals. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

Rateable values are only one part of the rates bill. The other is the ratings multiplier—which is applied to calculate final bills. To compensate for the higher property market at the time of revaluation we have reduced the multiplier by 15 per cent. taking it to its lowest level for 17 years—this is designed to ensure the Government do not collect an extra penny from revaluation and that each business pays its fair contribution by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, which in 2010-11 will ensure no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of businesses in England will receive *(a)* an increase and *(b)* a reduction in their (i) business rate valuation and (ii) business rates payable taking account of the rate poundage and transitional relief as a result of the most recent revaluation. [322347]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* The information requested is as follows:

Table 1: Number and share of hereditaments in England whose rateable value will increase or decrease as a result of the 2010 revaluation

	Number of hereditaments (thousand)	*Proportion of all hereditaments (percentage)*
Increase in RV	1,276	74
Decrease in RV	187	11
No change in RV	255	15

The data used to produce the number and proportion of hereditaments in England that will receive an increase or decrease in rateable value are consistent with the statistical release titled "Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists—England and Wales" published on 18 December 2009.

A copy of this statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

No estimates of the number and proportion of hereditaments in England that will receive an increase or decrease in bill have been made, as these contain not only transitional relief but all other reliefs, some determined at the billing authorities' discretion. Therefore it is not possible to estimate the likely bill of a hereditament.

However, for the purpose of modelling the 2010 Transitional Relief scheme, my Department has estimated a proxy for rates bills in 2009-10 and 2010-11. The Notional Chargeable Amount (NCA) was calculated which for a given year is the product of the rateable value and that year's small business multiplier. The NCA is then compared to the previous year's reference value increased by the caps. The minimum of these two values was used as a proxy for the bill after transition. The result of these proxy calculations is shown in table 2.

Table 2: Number and share of hereditaments in England whose proxy bill, calculated by the Department before inflation and other reliefs but after transition, will increase or decrease as a result of the 2010 revaluation

	Number of hereditaments (thousand)	*Proportion of all hereditaments (percentage)*
Increase in bill	677	40
Decrease in bill	1,028	60

The data used for this modelling are consistent with the consultation document titled "The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England". Details on the methodology and assumptions used can be found on page 49 of the consultation. The assumptions underlying this modelling include zero inflation, which does not reflect the latest information available, and adjustments for appeals. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

The total number of hereditaments on the draft list used for the modelling of proxy bills is lower than on the draft rating list from which the number of properties with increasing or decreasing rateable values was taken. This is because the modelling was initially undertaken when the VOA had not compiled the full rating list and explains the discrepancy between the total number of hereditaments included in table 1 and 2 above.

Rateable values are only one part of the rates bill. The other is the ratings multiplier—which is applied to calculate final bills. To compensate for the higher property market at the time of revaluation we have reduced the multiplier by 15 per cent. taking it to its lowest level for 17 years—this is designed to ensure the Government do not collect an extra penny from revaluation and that each business pays its fair contribution by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, which in 2010-11 will ensure no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 399W, on non-domestic rates, what assumptions his Department made regarding *(a)* the number of appeals against rateable values, *(b)* the success rate of such appeals and *(c)* the resulting change in total rateable value from such appeals in each region in each year from 2009-10 to 2014-15. [323243]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* No assumptions were made about the number or success rate of appeals. However, for the purpose of modelling the 2010 Transitional Relief scheme, my Department has made an assumption about the total reduction in RV as a result of appeals.

The assumptions used for this modelling are detailed in the consultation document titled 'The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England'. The methodology and assumptions can be found on page 49 of the consultation. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* companies, *(b)* business organisations, *(c)* property owners, *(d)* property organisations, *(e)* councils and *(f)* local government organisations his Department has (i) met and (ii) received correspondence from on the subject of (A) empty property rates and (B) empty property relief since January 2007. [323166]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* Ministers and Officials from the Department meet stakeholders regularly to discuss a range of matters, including empty property rates. The Department monitored empty property rates correspondence between March 2007 and December 2008 and received 349 letters. Figures on correspondence received outside of that period could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1154W, on non-domestic rates: ports, who took the decision that port businesses should be separately rated; and when the decision was taken. [321732]

Barbara Follett: Valuation officers are required under Section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to maintain accurate rating lists. When they become aware that a change is needed, such as that at the ports, they must make the alteration and also specify the date from which the change should become effective for rates charging purposes.

The principles concerning separate rateability where there is "exclusive occupation" and "paramount control" are long established. The leading case on the subject is a House of Lords decision from as far back as 193—6-Westminster Council v. Southern Railway Company and W.H. Smith and Son.

The VOA rated ports and properties within ports for the 2005 list based upon information supplied by the ports operators and indeed a significant number of separate assessments appeared in the rating lists for individual port occupiers at this stage, even before the ports review was initiated.

It was only after the list was compiled that—through routine work to keep the lists up to date—it was found that at Southampton Container Terminal the assessment for the 2000 list may not have correctly reflected the extent to which separate property within the Port of Southampton needed to be assessed. Action was therefore taken by the VOA to amend the list, but this action was strongly disputed by the other parties and legal and valuation argument followed: only once that appeal had been withdrawn, (in April 2006), were the VOA able to satisfy themselves of the correct approach in relation to certain types of port occupation and they immediately instigated the review of ports. Port operators were advised by letter of the ports review and its background in May 2006.

As a result of the review, which ended in 2008, 725 newly assessed properties were added to the ratings list. The decision to add each of these would have been made by the relevant valuation officer in each instance.

The review of ports by the Valuation Office Agency is to ensure that all individual business properties within and outside ports are rated fairly to ensure that the burden of contributions to funding local government is shared fairly among businesses around the country.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some businesses within ports. It has legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in a single instalment, helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87.5 per cent.

As at October 81 2009, local authorities have reported that ratepayers occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and ratepayers occupying a further 200 business properties within ports had been granted a schedule of payments.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1152-3W, on non-domestic rates: ports, when the cumulo rating system was ended; by what means it was ended; and what notice was given to port owners of its ending. [321734]

Barbara Follett: There has been some confusion about the application of this system, which has not ended and is still in place. The term "cumulo" (artificial hereditament) is used to describe properties (hereditaments) within the same occupation (of the port authority); that under the normal rules of rating would be shown as individual entries, as a single entry in the rating list.

It is clear from the regulations governing the use of this technique (Regulation 5 of the Non-Domestic Rating Miscellaneous Provisions (2) Regulations 1989 (SI 1989/

2303)) that it is a method for identifying a statutory port authority only and not for combining properties occupied by other businesses, under the same rateable value as the port authority.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many appeals have been lodged with *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* valuation tribunals against new business rate assessments for firms in ports; how many have been fast-tracked; how many have been concluded; and of those concluded how many have been upheld (i) in whole and (ii) in part. [323036]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 387W.

Most proposals (appeals) are not specific about the particular issues they wish to challenge. The Valuation Office Agency is not therefore able to provide details as to which proposals that result in a change to the rating list were allowed (i) in whole or (ii) in part.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been issued to local authorities on the collection of backdated business rates from firms in ports. [323088]

Barbara Follett: The Valuation Office Agency has not issued guidance to local authorities on this matter. The Department has not issued specific guidance to local authorities regarding the collection of backdated liabilities for port based ratepayers. However, we have issued guidance and information on collecting monies under the eight year schedule of payments scheme through an information letter that can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1178175.pdf

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some businesses within ports. They have legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in a single instalment, helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87.5 per cent. and assist authorities by being able to collect the money over the eight years.

As at 8 October 2009, local authorities have reported that ratepayers occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and ratepayers occupying a further 200 business properties within ports had been granted a schedule of payments.

Non-Domestic Rates: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much on average was paid in business rates in the City of York in 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of the likely average amount to be paid in 2010-11 taking account of transitional relief. [322381]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* The figure derived from dividing the forecast net rate yield from the city of York's rating list in 2009-10 by the number of hereditaments on that local list as at 31 December 2008 is £14,600. Data are as reported to Communities and Local Government by the city of York on their 2009-10 National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) returns.

No estimates of the average bill in 2010-11 have been made, as these contain not only transitional relief but all other reliefs, some determined at the billing authorities' discretion. Therefore it is not possible to estimate the likely bill of a hereditament and any comparison with the average bill in 2009-10 will be flawed as it cannot take account of all of these reliefs.

However, for the purpose of modelling the 2010 Transitional Relief scheme, my Department has estimated a proxy for rates bills in 2010-11. The Notional Chargeable Amount (NCA) was calculated which for a given year is the product of the rateable value and that year's small business multiplier. The NCA is then compared to the previous year's reference value increased by the caps. The minimum of these two values was used as a proxy for the bill after transition. The figure derived from dividing the total of all proxy bills for 2010-11 in the city of York by the number of hereditaments on the draft 2010 rating list used for the Department's 2010 transitional relief modelling is £16,300.

The data used for this modelling are consistent with the consultation document titled The Transitional Arrangements for the Non-domestic Rating Revaluation 2010 in England. Details on the methodology and assumptions used can be found on page 49 of the consultation. The assumptions underlying this modelling include zero inflation, which does not reflect the latest information available, and adjustments for appeals. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, which in 2010-11 will ensure no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. as a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses in the City of York were liable to pay business rates in 2009-10; how many such businesses will face *(a)* an increase and *(b)* a reduction in (i) their rateable value as a result of the business rates revaluation, (ii) the rates they pay in cash terms in 2010-11 taking into account the rate poundage and transitional relief and (iii) the rates they pay in 2010-11 taking into account the rate poundage and transitional relief and discounting the national average increase in business rates between 2009-10 and 2010-11. [322382]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 15 March 2010]*: The information is as follows:

Table 1: Number and share of hereditaments in the city of York whose rateable value will increase or decrease as a result of the 2010 revaluation

	Number of hereditaments[1]	Proportion of all hereditaments (percentage)
Increase in RV	5,200	86
Decrease in RV	300	6
No change in RV	500	8

[1] Rounded to the nearest 100.

The data used to produce the number and proportion of hereditaments in the city of York that will receive an increase or decrease in rateable value are consistent with the statistical release titled "Non-domestic Rateable Values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists—England and Wales" published on 18 December 2009.

A copy of this statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

No estimates of the number and proportion of hereditaments in the city of York that will receive an increase or decrease in bill have been made, as these contain not only transitional relief but all other reliefs, some determined at the billing authorities' discretion. Therefore it is not possible to estimate the likely bill of a hereditament.

However, for the purpose of modelling the 2010 Transitional Relief scheme, my Department has estimated a proxy for rates bills in 2009-10 and 2010-11. The Notional Chargeable Amount (NCA) was calculated which for a given year is the product of the rateable value and that year's small business multiplier. The NCA is then compared to the previous year's reference value increased by the caps. The minimum of these two values was used as a proxy for the bill after transition. The result of these proxy calculations is shown in table 2 as follows:

Table 2: Number and share of hereditaments in the city of York whose proxy bill, calculated by the Department before inflation and other reliefs but after transition, will increase or decrease as a result of the 2010 revaluation

	Number of hereditaments[1]	Proportion of all hereditaments (percentage)
Increase in bill	2,400	40
Decrease in bill	3,600	60

[1] Rounded to the nearest 100.

The data used for this modelling are consistent with the consultation document titled "The Transitional Arrangements for the Non-domestic Rating Revaluation 2010 in England". Details on the methodology and assumptions used can be found on page 49 of the consultation. The assumptions underlying this modelling include zero inflation, which does not reflect the latest information available, and adjustments for appeals. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

The national average change in proxy bills was a decrease of £20. After this average national change was discounted from each of the proxy bills produced by the model for hereditaments in the city of York the number of hereditaments seeing increases and decreases in their rates bill is shown in the following table:

Table 3: Number and share of hereditaments in the city of York whose proxy bill, calculated by the Department before inflation and other reliefs but after transition, will increase or decrease as a result of the 2010 revaluation discounting the national average increase in business rates

	Number of hereditaments[1]	Proportion of all hereditaments (percentage)
Increase in bill	2,600	43
Decrease in bill	3,400	57

[1] Rounded to the nearest 100.

When calculating the business rates multiplier in a revaluation year, we are required by law to discount the effect of any increases in rateable value. As a result, we have reduced the multiplier by 15 per cent. in 2010-11—taking it to its lowest level for 17 years. This is designed to ensure the Government do not collect an extra penny from revaluation. The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government have put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, which in 2010-11 will ensure no business property sees its rates bill increase by more than 11 per cent. a result of the revaluation, with maximum increases capped at just 3.5 per cent. for small properties. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Public Footpaths

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department has given to local authorities for parish path initiatives and partnerships to date. [323442]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

The Parish Paths Partnership was launched by the Countryside Commission in 1992 and ran until 1998 as a demonstration project. Some local authorities continue to run and fund the scheme, which is aimed at improving and maintaining local public rights of way. There is no centrally held information as to which authorities continue to operate the Parish Paths Partnership scheme, and how much funding is allocated to the scheme by those authorities.

Public Sector

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Government departments are participating in the Total Place initiative. [323303]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Total Place programme is overseen by a ministerial group chaired by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and includes the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Department of Health, Department for Work and Pensions, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Cabinet Office along with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Chair of the LGA.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for Total Place stage two; and how many Total Place stage two pilots he expects to take place. [323441]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government's report on Total Place will be published alongside Budget 2010. The report will set out the next steps Government will take on the Total Place programme.

Regional Planning and Development

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have had their core strategy found unsound by the Planning Inspectorate; and for what reasons in each case. [323029]

Mr. Ian Austin: Eight authorities have had their core strategy development plan documents found unsound. The authorities are Carrick district council (as was); Chichester district council; Lichfield city council; Ryedale district council; Stafford borough council; Restormel borough council (as was); Teignbridge district council and the Royal borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

A paper has been placed in the Library of the House which sets out in summary the reasons why each core strategy has been found unsound.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the responsible regional authority to draw up each new regional strategy. [323158]

Mr. Ian Austin: The provisions of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 to create regional strategies come into effect on 1 April 2010. The regulations, which also come into effect on that day, state that each Responsible Regional Authority will have to produce a project plan outlining how they will take forward the revision of their regional strategy, some project plans are already in place. All regions will aim to complete the revision of their regional strategies by 2013.

Social Rented Housing: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which company has been awarded the National Register of Social Housing database contract reference 2009/S 245-350819 by the Tenant Services Authority. [323046]

Mr. Ian Austin: The company awarded the contract (contract reference 2009/S 245-350819) for the National Register of Social Housing Database was RM Education plc.

Social Rented Housing: Tenants Rights

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on succession tenancy rights for adult sons and daughters of a social tenant. [323105]

Mr. Ian Austin: By virtue of sections 87 and 88 of the Housing Act 1985, an individual only has a right to succeed to a secure periodic local authority tenancy if the deceased tenant had not themselves succeeded to the tenancy and they are either the spouse/civil partner of the deceased tenant or they are a family member who has been residing in the property as their principal home for at least 12 months ending on the date that the tenant died.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister published in November 2002 'Allocation of Accommodation—Code of Guidance for Local Housing Authorities' which gives guidance on when it may be appropriate to grant a new tenancy to those members of the household who have been living with the deceased tenant but who do not have the legal right to succeed. This states that:

"Where a tenant dies and another household member (who does not have succession rights to the tenancy) has:

(a) been living with the tenant for the year prior to the tenant's death; or

(b) been providing care for the tenant; or

(c) accepted responsibility for the tenant's dependants and needs to live with them in order to do so,

housing authorities should consider granting a tenancy to the remaining person or persons, either in the same home or in suitable alternative accommodation, provided the allocation has no adverse implications for the good use of the housing stock and has sufficient priority under the allocation scheme. In the case of (a) and (b), the accommodation in question must be the principal or only residence of the survivor at the time the tenant dies."

Standards Board for England: Public Relations

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2013W, on Standards Board for England: public relations, which external public relations *(a)* firms and *(b)* consultants were hired by the Standards Board for England in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and how much the Standards Board for England has spent on exhibitions at political party conferences to date. [323084]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following external suppliers have provided the services that were referred to in my answer of 9 September to the hon. Member.

(i) 2008-09

Supplier	*Service provided*
Alphagraphics/Genie	Printing
Belmont	Printing
Benedicts	Event management and logistics for the annual assembly
Chapel Press	Printing
Cousins Group	Printing
De Havilland	Tracking relevant parliamentary proceedings
Durrants Press Cuttings Ltd.	Media monitoring
EC Group	Printing
Jacaranda	Training film development and production
JT McLoughlin	Printing
Paramount Print	Printing
PDC	Printing
Pelican Print	Printing
Pukka films	Training film development and production

(i) 2008-09

Supplier	*Service provided*
Terminal Four	Web content management system
Thompson Brand Partners	Brand review, publication design, web development consultancy

(ii) 2009-10

Supplier	*Service provided*
Benedicts	Event management and logistics for the annual assembly
Chapel Press	Printing
De Havilland	Tracking of relevant parliamentary proceedings
Durrants	Media monitoring
EC Group	Printing
Hylton Waldeck Photography	Photography
Iacaranda	Training film development and production
Paramount Print	Printing
PDC	Printing
Pelican Print	Printing
Terminal Four	Web content management system
Thompson Brand Partners	Brand review, publication design, web development consultancy

Since 2006-07, the Standards Board has spent £139,447 on exhibitions at party political conferences.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 671W, on tenancy deposit schemes, if he will place in the Library a copy of the contracts between his Department and tenancy deposit scheme providers, with the commercially sensitive information redacted. [323920]

Mr. Ian Austin: Yes, I will place copies of the redacted versions of the Department's contracts with MyDeposits, the Deposit Protection Service and the Tenancy Deposit Scheme in the Library of the House.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010 to date (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in his Department met each of the tenancy deposit scheme providers; who was present at each such meeting; and what items were discussed. [323921]

Mr. Ian Austin: Ministers have not met the tenancy deposit scheme providers in 2009 or 2010. Officials met MyDeposits on 12 January, 24 June and 21 September 2009 and 18 January 2010, the Deposit Protection Service on 26 January, 22 April and 28 September 2009 and 3 February and 3 March 2010 and the Tenancy Deposit Scheme on 19 January, 28 April, 23 September and 12 November 2009 and 25 January and 19 February 2010. The schemes were represented by senior executive staff and board members. The items discussed included general updates from the scheme providers and CLG, contract obligations including key performance indicators, disaster recovery/business continuity plans and tests, issues raised by the Tenancy Deposit Protection User Group, operational issues including promotional activity, data collection and other current issues.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department's contracts with tenancy deposit scheme providers provide for it to intervene to prevent an increase in the level of fees charged by a provider. [323922]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has no role in the level of fees that the tenancy deposit scheme providers charge their members. Any increase is a commercial decision for the scheme providers.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Ordnance Survey's policy is on recording illegal encampments and Traveller camps without planning permission on Ordnance Survey maps. [323229]

Mr. Ian Austin: Ordnance Survey's policy for the recording of encampments and Traveller camps reflects normal data capture policy. The location of buildings, roads, tracks, hedges, fences and similar structures which meet the relevant map specifications are surveyed and recorded when they are considered to be permanent features in the landscape. Locations of mobile homes are recorded as though they were buildings, but only when they are occupied principally for residential purposes and have a postal address.

Judgments as to permanence and residential status are determined by the surveyor using the detailed mapping specifications, established precedent and experience in interpreting the physical nature of a development.

It is not within Ordnance Survey's remit to make any judgment on the legality or otherwise of any feature or development within the landscape. Hence the representation on an Ordnance Survey map of any features within a site containing an encampment or Traveller camp is no evidence of the legality or status under planning permission of that camp.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer Question 315992, on affordable housing and the Code for Sustainable Homes, tabled on 2 February 2010. [320253]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have now replied to the hon. Member's question.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Boilers: Government Assistance

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects funding allocated to the boiler scrappage scheme to be exhausted; whether he plans to provide additional funding for the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [323175]

Joan Ruddock: The boiler scrappage scheme works on a "first come, first served" basis. The funding will be exhausted when there is insufficient resource available to support the issuing of further vouchers under the £50 million allocated to the scheme. The scheme has been very popular. Any decision on the provision of additional funding for the scheme would be a matter for consideration as part of the usual budgetary cycle.

Carbon Emissions: Buildings

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has made an estimate of the average waiting time for work to be carried out under the Low Carbon Buildings programme in respect of *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals, *(c)* other public buildings and *(d)* households in (i) each London borough and (ii) Putney constituency in each year since inception of that programme. [323927]

Joan Ruddock: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme does not collect or collate this type of information. Each grant offer letter is time bounded depending on the type of technology requested, the applicant type (householder applications or communities/schools/other not-for profit organisations) and if new build or retro-fit. Any waiting time will relate to these time scales.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what the monetary value was of grants awarded under the Low Carbon Buildings programme to *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals, *(c)* other public buildings and *(d)* households in (i) each London borough and (ii) Putney constituency in each year since inception of that programme; [323928]

(2) how many applications for grants under the Low Carbon Buildings programme from *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals, *(c)* other public buildings and *(d)* households in (i) each London borough and (ii) Putney constituency were refused for each reason in each year since the inception of that programme; [323929]

(3) what payments were made to the 10 Low Carbon Buildings programme contractors which were awarded contracts of the highest monetary value in respect of *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals, *(c)* other public buildings and *(d)* households in (i) each London borough and (ii) Putney constituency in each year since the inception of that programme; and how many complaints his Department (A) received and (B) upheld about work undertaken by those contractors under that programme in each of those years. [323930]

Joan Ruddock: The information requested above is not held centrally nor in a form that is readily extractable. Some information (we do not know if it is complete) may exist as raw data within several databases but our estimates are that for it to be researched and extracted manually from over 25,000 records will require approximately 10 person days.

For this reason, we believe that disproportionate costs will be incurred with no guarantee that the question will be answered successfully.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many domestic appliances are being funded under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target Scheme; what estimated reduction of carbon dioxide emissions this funding has achieved; and if he will make a statement. [323428]

Joan Ruddock: Domestic appliance products make up less than 1 per cent. of savings to date towards the 185 million tonne lifetime carbon dioxide savings target (April 2008 to March 2011 timeframe). High efficiency consumer electronics are responsible for a further 2 per cent. This compares to some 62 per cent. of savings to date achieved through insulation products. The specific number of domestic appliances supported will only be known at the end of the scheme.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department are taking to ensure consumers are informed of how much they are paying towards the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme through tariffs; and if he will make a statement. [323429]

Joan Ruddock: The Government believe that improving the transparency of the costs falling to suppliers from meeting their supplier obligation and how they pass these costs onto consumers is critical. The Government's 'Warm Homes, Greener Homes' strategy published in early March set out the importance of greater transparency in any post 2013 energy company obligation, including around cost information. We continue to develop the detail of this arrangement, and will pursue new powers as necessary.

Carbon Emissions: Trees

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 734W, on trees, what is the estimated number of trees planted as a woodland creation carbon abatement measure that would offset one tonne of carbon dioxide. [323034]

Joan Ruddock: A hectare of new native woodland planted now in the UK would be expected to remove nearly 400 tonnes of CO_2 from the atmosphere by 2050, equivalent to six trees planted per tonne of CO_2 sequestered by that time.

Departmental Consultants

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1120W, on departmental consultants, whether the number of consultants given in the answer was included in the figures for number of staff employed by his Department published in its most recent annual report. [321250]

Joan Ruddock: The most recent annual report published was the 2009 Annual report. This report contained figures for Permanently Employed Staff (i.e. staff employed

directly by DECC) and 'Others' for the period 2008-09. Consultants were included in the total figure for 'Others'. The answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1120W, gave the number of consultants employed in DECC during December 2009.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [323626]

Joan Ruddock: The Department occupies 3-8 Whitehall Place, London and two floors of Atholl House, Aberdeen. A voltage optimisation unit is installed in 3-8 Whitehall Place. There is no such equipment in Atholl House.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323462]

Joan Ruddock: On the announcement of a General Election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Domestic Appliances: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 939W, on domestic appliances: carbon emissions, if he will make an estimate of the *(a)* number of domestic consumer electronics products which qualify for the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and *(b)* likely effect on the level of carbon dioxide emissions of the inclusion of those products in that scheme. [323991]

Joan Ruddock: 14 electronic product types qualify to be promoted by suppliers in support of achieving their household Carbon Emissions Reduction Target. Consumer electronic products make up just over 2 per cent. of savings towards the 185 million tonne lifetime carbon dioxide savings target to date (by end December 2009). This compares to some 62 per cent. of savings achieved through insulation products and 29 per cent. through lighting products.

Energy

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what tariff levels, expressed in kilowatt hours, he plans to set for new installations of energy plants providing energy by *(a)* anaerobic digestion, *(b)* hydroelectricity, *(c)* photovoltaic energy, *(d)* nuclear plants, *(e)* coal combustion plants, *(f)* oil combustion plants and *(g)* wind turbines in the period 2010-13; and if he will make a statement. [323548]

Mr. Kidney: From April 2010, Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) are issued per MWh for accredited installations over 50kW. The level of support granted to hydroelectricity, anaerobic digestion, solar photovoltaic and wind turbines through the Renewables Obligation is as follows, expressed in kilowatt hours (kWh):

Hydroelectricity: 0.001 ROC/kWh

Anaerobic digestion: 0.002 ROCs/kWh

Solar photovoltaic: 0.002 ROCs/kWh

Onshore wind: 0.001 ROC/kWh

Offshore wind: 0.002 ROCs/kWh (from 10 April: 0.0015 ROCs before then).

Feed in tariffs for projects up to 5MW are available from 1 April 2010. As well as a tariff for generation of low carbon electricity (shown in the table), an export tariff of 3p/kWh is available for all technologies under the scheme.

		Tariff level for new installations in period (p/kWh)		
Technology	*Scale*	*Year 1: 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011*	*Year 2: 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012*	*Year 3: 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013*
Anaerobic digestion	<500kW	11.5	11.5	11.5
Anaerobic digestion	>500kW	9.0	9.0	9.0
Hydro	<15kW	19.9	19.9	19.9
Hydro	>15-100kW	17.8	17.8	17.8
Hydro	>100kW-2MW	11.0	11.0	11.0
Hydro	>2 MW-5MW	4.5	4.5	4.5
PV	<4kW (new build)	36.1	36.1	33.0
PV	<4kW (retrofit)	41.3	41.3	37.8
PV	>4-10kW	36.1	36.1	33.0
PV	>10-100kW	31.4	31.4	28.7
PV	>100kW-5MW	29.3	29.3	26.8
PV	Stand alone system	29.3	29.3	26.8
Wind	<1.5kW	34.5	34.5	32.6
Wind	>1.5-15kW	26.7	26.7	25.5
Wind	>15-100kW	24.1	24.1	23.0
Wind	>100-500kW	19.9	18.8	18.8
Wind	>500kW-1.5MW	9.4	9.4	9.4
Wind	>1.5MW-5MW	4.5	4.5	4.5

The level of financial support that will be provided to carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration projects on commercial-scale coal fired power stations under the CCS Incentive has yet to be set.

There are no tariffs for output from nuclear installations, or oil or coal combustion without CCS.

Energy Supply

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage a diversity of energy supply. [323351]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* I refer you to the answer I gave to your question No. 314481 on 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 619W.

Energy: Meters

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what service standards he plans to include in codes of conduct for the implementation of smart meters. [322485]

Mr. Kidney: The Smart Metering Implementation Programme is considering a wide range of issues relating to smart meter roll out including whether service standards and/or codes of conduct should be put place before the formal roll out begins.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency since its inception; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316786]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency £432,566.50 since its inception on 3 October 2008. The latest available figures at the end of January 2010 show a total of £338,809.31 has been paid in the financial year 2009-10. All the payments were in respect of the Government Car Service.

Costs to Departments of ministerial cars are reported annually to Parliament by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport through written ministerial statement and are available in the Library of the House.

Warm Front Scheme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Warm Front applications referred to Eaga Ltd. remained *(a)* outstanding, *(b)* unresolved and *(c)* incomplete for more than (i) 21 days, (ii) three months and (iii) six months in each of the last two years. [319928]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 2 March 2010]:* The Warm Front scheme does not record information in the way requested on the number of applications that remain *(a)* outstanding, *(b)* unresolved and *(c)* incomplete for more than (i) 21 days, (ii) three months and (iii) six months. It is not possible to provide a direct answer to the question. However, information is available regarding the total number of applications currently outstanding and the applications progressed within agreed time scales—21 working days for surveys, three months for insulation measures and six months for heating measures. This information is provided as follows:

The total number of applicants that applied to the scheme in 2009-10 (as at end of February 2010) was 269,268 and 12.4 per cent. were awaiting an assessment.

Surveys

	2008-09	*2009-10*
Surveyed within 21 working days	221,100	192,585
Surveyed outside 21 working days	14,074	10,966
Total surveys	235,174	203,551
Percentage in time	94.0	94.6
Percentage outside timeline	6.0	5.4

Insulation

	2008-09	*2009-10*
Installed within 60 working days	82,197	75,697
Installed outside 60 working days	14,036	3,146
Total installations	96,233	78,843
Percentage in time	85.4	96.0
Percentage outside timeline	14.6	4.0

Heating

	2008-09	*2009-10*
Installed within 120 working days	105,936	100,051
Installed outside 120 working days	9,805	6,993
Total installations	115,741	107,044
Percentage in time	91.5	93.5
Percentage outside timeline	8.5	6.5

Wind Power

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities and planning bodies on technical issues arising from planning proposals for wind turbines. [322032]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* The Department has issued the following guidance and reports to inform local authorities and planning bodies on technical issues arising from planning proposals for wind turbines:

The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms (ETSU R-97), (1996)

Cumulative effects of wind turbines (2000)

Wind Energy and Aviation Interests: Interim Guidelines (2002)

Wind Turbines and Aviation Interests—European Experience and Practice (2002)

Wind Farms Impact on Radar Aviation Interests (2003)

Research into Aerodynamic Modulation of Wind Turbine Noise (2007)

Onshore Wind Energy Planning Conditions Guidance Note (2007).

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 24 March 2010

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Labour Party: Donors

Robert Neill: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the Electoral Commission's press release of 7 May 2009, on the Crown Prosecution Service decision on Labour Party donations, whether the Electoral Commission made an assessment of the merits of initiating its own investigation into the donations after the Crown Prosecution Service decision. [323704]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that following the Crown Prosecution Service decision in May 2009, the Commission considered what, if any, further action might be appropriate. The Commission concluded that in view of the investigation conducted by the police and the CPS decision, further investigation into the same matters would not be in the public interest.

Political Parties: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 6W, on political parties: finance, from which *(a)* legal firms, *(b)* Queen's counsel and *(c)* other sources the Electoral Commission sought advice in connection with its investigation into Mr. Michael Brown and Fifth Avenue Partners; how much was paid for such advice in each case; and what the total cost was to the Electoral Commission of the investigation. [323601]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that, in addition to legal advice from its in-house legal counsel, it also obtained legal advice from Queen's counsel, Michael Beloff QC; and from junior barristers, Jane Collier, Tom Hickman and Michael Nield. Payments to Queen's counsel amounted to £33,625 and payments to junior counsel amounted to £26,650.

The Electoral Commission further informs me that it does not record the precise direct and indirect costs associated with any particular case but, now that the investigation is closed, can estimate that the staff and incidental costs incurred, including the above legal costs, amounted to approximately £170,000.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Charlie Whelan

Mr. Hurd: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether Mr. Charlie Whelan holds a House of Commons security pass. [324210]

Nick Harvey: Mr. Charles Whelan holds a parliamentary photo-identity pass.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1006W, on Members: expenses, how much the *(a)* budget and *(b)* approved purchase order is for the use of Detica to undertake investigations in 2009-10; and what it was in 2008-09. [323956]

Nick Harvey: An invoice for £15,640, inclusive of VAT, has now been received in line with the original budgetary provision. This was for a piece of work in support of the internal inquiry into the unauthorised disclosure of information about Members' allowances. No payment for such work was made in 2008-09.

Nurseries

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the oral answer of 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 428, on the day nursery, what items of expenditure referred to as having being spent on Bellamy's Bar will be reused in the new scheme; and what estimate has been made of the monetary value of those items. [323949]

Nick Harvey: Of the £480,000 spent on the refurbishment of Bellamy's Bar, Bellamy's Club Room, and the Astor Suite (including fees and furnishings) it is estimated that approximately £168,000 of the work would be of continuing benefit in the new child care facility. Items include carpets, carpentry and joinery, plasterwork, decorations, mechanical and electrical engineering. In addition, efforts will be made to reuse the furniture elsewhere on the parliamentary estate, which was provided at a cost of £66,000.

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire (Peter Luff) of 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 423, on the day nursery, when consultation with experts and providers began; when he expects that consultation to finish; and what consultation is being undertaken with those who will be relocated from
1 Parliament street. [323951]

Nick Harvey: Consultation with child care experts has been continuous since November 2009, and is expected to continue throughout the duration of the project. Consultation with providers took place to help inform the options paper presented to the Commission in December, but is now in abeyance until completion of the procurement process. Management are consulting with Trade Unions and regularly briefing those staff who are to be relocated from 1 Parliament street.

WALES

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many smoking shelters have been built for his Department's staff in the last five years; and at what cost. [324345]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324429]

Mr. Hain: My Department has not incurred any expenditure of this nature.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department. [322575]

Mr. Hain: I will arrange for the results from the Civil Service People Survey for the Wales Office to be placed in the Library of each House.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to questions in the formulation "if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997" could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323872]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has not received any such questions.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel of each sex were injured in Afghanistan *(a)* between the deployment of special forces in 2001 and the deployment of the armed forces and *(b)* since the deployment of the armed forces in that country. [323352]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding 22 March answer 2010]:* Between October 2001 and February 2010, 1,116 service personnel were injured in action in Afghanistan, of which six were female.

This figure does not include personnel treated by coalition medical facilities before the establishment of the Afghan Field Hospital in March 2006. It is not possible to distinguish on the basis of gender between personnel injured between April and October 2006.

Between April 2006 and February 2010, 2,217 service personnel with non-battle injuries or diseases were admitted to a field hospital in Afghanistan, of which 116 were female.

Animal Experiments

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he takes to ensure the welfare of animals used in scientific procedures as a result of a decision by his Department. [323215]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence has always taken the issue of animal health and welfare seriously and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) complies fully with all of the UK legislative requirements.

All Dstl staff who wish to work with animals are required to attend internal Dstl courses prior to their application for a personal licence. Following the successful completion of the required internal and legislative training, staff continue to undertake on the job training; individual training records are maintained to ensure required competence for procedures.

In order to maintain high welfare standards and share best practice Dstl staff are encouraged to visit other facilities and attend appropriate conferences e.g. meetings of the Institute of Animal Technologists, the Laboratory Animal Science Association and the Laboratory Animal Veterinary Association.

Information gathered is then shared within Dstl via dedicated internal forums.

Armed Forces: Equipment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on funding standard operational requirements for kit and equipment for the armed forces. [323002]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The core Equipment Programme, funded from the Defence budget, delivers the capabilities our armed forces need now and in the future against a range of contingencies and threats. Priorities are reviewed regularly as part of the Ministry of Defence's annual planning round. In addition, Urgent Operational Requirements respond to urgent requirements specific to particular operational theatres and are funded by the Treasury Reserve.

Armed Forces: Officers

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers at each rank at or above the rank of colonel there were in the British Army, including the Territorial Army and Reserve, in *(a)* 1990, *(b)* 1997, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [323708]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 23 March 2010]:* The information requested is provided in the following table:

As at April each year	General	Lieutenant General	Major General	Brigadier	Colonel	Total
Regular officers						
1990	10	9	65	236	657	977
1997	[1]6	10	43	172	478	709
2005	7	11	46	179	584	827
2009	5	17	43	190	597	852
Territorial Army (TA) officers						
1997	—	—	—	2	70	72
2005	—	—	—	4	87	91

[1] Includes one Field Marshal

Notes:

1. "—" denotes zero.

2. April 2009 figures for Regular Officers are provisional because of Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system data validation issues.

In addition, in April 2005 there were three full-time Reserve service colonels, and in April 2009 there were four full-time Reserve service colonels and one brigadier. The 2009 figure is also provisional.

Data on the Territorial Army are not held before January 1993. After April 2007 Territorial Army officer and soldier breakdowns are not included due to JPA data validation issues.

The changes of Army officers numbers is in line with the Army's operational commitments over this period, therefore since 1997 there has been a significant increase in the number of senior officers being deployed on operations. Modern conflict has seen UK Armed Forces deploying an increased number of senior officers in support of NATO and other coalitions far more than in the recent past; moreover, there has also been the requirement for senior officer support for host nations in a variety of advisory roles. Appropriate military representation is required at many levels to command operations, provide staff support in coalition headquarters, and effect coordination. Our operational commitments have demanded increased number of officers at the rank of colonel and above to deploy, and hence numbers have increased in these higher ranks.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has sought legal advice on the status of the Minute of Separation under Scottish Law as the equivalent of the Decree for Judicial Separation in applying the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975. [323555]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Yes. Departmental legal advisers referred questions regarding the status of a Minute of Separation under Scottish Law to a Scottish firm of solicitors in April 2006. The advice given by the Scottish firm of solicitors was subsequently applied by the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 ("the AFPS 1975") scheme administrators in deciding an individual's entitlement to restoration of widow's pension under the AFPS 1975 rules.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what differences there are between the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 and the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005 in respect of pension payments following the subsequent remarriage or co-habitation of widows. [323556]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Where a widow has been granted a non attributable pension under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 ("AFPS 1975"), i.e.: in circumstances where the death of her husband was not attributable to service, and that widow subsequently marries or co-habits with another person, then the pension is no longer payable.

In cases where a widow has been granted an attributable pension under AFPS 75 where her husband's death on or after 31 October 2000 was attributable to service, and that widow subsequently marries or co-habits with another person, her pension will remain in payment.

Under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005 ("AFPS 2005"), where a widow in receipt of a pension remarries or co-habits with another person, the pension payable under AFPS 2005 is unaffected.

Departmental Location

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what locations his Department's officials are based together with *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force staff. [322847]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The site level location data for service and civilian personnel are not held in a format that allows cross comparison. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323560]

Mr. Kevan Jones: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Asylum

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of displaced people who have fled from Burma to Thailand since January 2010; whether he has had discussions with the government of Thailand on the safety and welfare of those people; and if he will make a statement. [323617]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We received reports of people fleeing from Burma to Thailand since January 2010 but the numbers are unconfirmed. Following news that Thailand was intending to force 3,000 refugees to return to Burma, our ambassador to Thailand raised this matter with the Thai authorities stressing the importance of adherence to international standards and to Thailand's international obligations. We understand that the Royal Thai Government decided not to deport the 30 families it had initially

identified for removal. We continue to closely monitor the situation are coordinating closely with UN High Commission for Refugees, US and EU partners and will continue to raise the issue with Thai authorities.

Burma: United Nations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how often he receives reports from the EU Special Envoy on Burma on his activities; and if he will make a statement. [323621]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The EU Special Envoy for Burma, Piero Fassino, regularly reports to EU member states including on his 20 November 2009 meeting with the Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation of Burma and his engagement with regional parliamentarians and officials in Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam, also in November 2009. More recently, Mr. Fassino reported on the EU Troika meeting with the Burmese Foreign Minister in December 2009 and on his meetings with Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and other partners, at the United Nations at the end of January 2010.

There are currently no plans to make a statement but the UK welcomes Mr. Fassino's continued efforts to communicate the EU's position to the Burmese authorities, countries in the region and international partners to try and bring positive change to Burma.

Israel: Foreign Relations

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with the Israeli ambassador the matter of adherence to diplomatic protocol in commenting on proceedings in Parliament and internal British political activities. [322131]

David Miliband: I have no plans to discuss these matters with the Israeli ambassador. He, like everyone else, is entitled to his views on proceedings in Parliament.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the consideration by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development of Israel's application for membership. [322896]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK supports Israel's bid for accession to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. However, there remain a small number of issues, such as the scope of statistical data, which are being resolved in the course of the accession process.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made a recent assessment of the security situation in the Nuba mountain region of Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [323618]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We remain concerned by the ongoing instability and humanitarian suffering in the Nuba mountains region of Southern Kordofan. We continue to monitor the situation closely, including through visits to the area. The forthcoming elections period will be crucial: we note that the voting for Governor and the State Assembly in Southern Kordofan has been delayed until a new census can be carried out.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement provides for popular consultations to be held in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. These will be essential to ensuring a lasting peace in Southern Kordofan and across Sudan as a whole. The dates and format of these consultations, and the referendum in Abyei (the third of the Three Areas) are yet to be finalised by the parties. It is essential that this process is inclusive and takes account of the legitimate concerns of the regions' populations.

The UK continues to support projects to mitigate conflict and foster peace in the Three Areas and has committed £30 million over the next three years to provide basic services to households.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department will make the Single Payment Scheme payment to Mrs. Mary Wilkinson of Little Hadham, Hertfordshire for 2007; and if he will make a statement. [321616]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Mrs. Wilkinson has received her payment.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average cost was of processing a single payment in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many payments of less than that amount were made in that period. [322338]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The National Audit Office calculated the average cost for administering a Single Payment Scheme claim for the 2008 scheme year (England only) as £1,743.

29,897 claims under the Single Payment Scheme for 2008 scheme year (England only) had values equal to or less than £1,743. The values of claims could be adjusted however following the application of penalties or for over claims.

Carbon Emissions: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1578W, on carbon emissions: waste disposal, what the reference number is of the research project; which body undertook the research; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report on estimating carbon dioxide emissions from domestic burning. [323085]

Dan Norris: Research project ED431843 was undertaken by AEA Technology, and provides estimates of dioxin emissions from domestic burning. A copy of the research report has been placed in the House Library.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to reply to correspondence from Richard D. Hall dated *(a)* 4 December 2009, *(b)* 6 December 2009, *(c)* 15 December 2009 and *(d)* 2 March 2010 on animal mutilation. [323907]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Neither DEFRA nor its agency, Animal Health, hold a record of having received correspondence of the dates referred to by the hon. Member for Blaydon (Mr. Anderson).

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320632]

Dan Norris: The following tables show the number of disciplinary and capability procedures initiated and completed in each of the last five years. In this instance we are referring to capability as performance. They also show the number of staff dismissed in each of the years and percentage of staff subject to procedures who were dismissed for each of the procedures.

The following information is provided for DEFRA and its agencies:

Disciplinary

	Initiated	*Completed*[1]	*Proportion of staff*[2]	*Dismissed*	*Percentage dismissed*
2009-10	69	55	0.7	6	9
2008-09	58	51	0.5	5	9
2007-08	43	43	0.4	12	30
2006-07	50	50	0.4	20	40
2005-06	34	34	0.3	11	32

[1] Completed disciplinary cases short of dismissal would have concluded that the offences were either minor or serious misconduct and an appropriate warning or penalty would have been applied under DEFRA's disciplinary procedures. Alternatively the Decision Officer would have determined that the evidence did not support, or the offence did not warrant, a formal disciplinary warning.
[2] The proportion of total DEFRA staff where disciplinary cases have been initiated.

Capability

	Initiated	*Completed*	*Proportion of staff*[1]	*Dismissed*	*Percentage dismissed*
2009-10	33	27	0.3	5	15
2008-09	35	28	0.3	5	23
2007-08	38	38	0.3	9	24
2006-07	30	30	0.2	10	34
2005-06	22	22	0.2	9	41

[1] The proportion of total DEFRA staff where capability cases have been initiated.

Average time

Information for this element of the questions is not available in all cases, we are therefore unable to provide the information requested.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people his Department employs to maintain its social media and social networking sites; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [322615]

Dan Norris: DEFRA does not employ anyone to maintain social media or social networking sites.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on maintaining its *(a)* Flickr channel, *(b)* YouTube channel and *(c)* Twitter feed in the latest period for which figures are available. [322618]

Dan Norris: The annual licence fee for DEFRA's Flickr channel is $24.95 (US dollars). There is no licence fee for DEFRA's YouTube channel. There are no other costs and both channels are maintained by in-house staff. DEFRA does not have a Twitter feed.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323461]

Dan Norris: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department and its agencies. [322567]

Dan Norris: The 2009 People Survey results for the Department and its agencies are now available in the Library. The results for core DEFRA and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate are also available on their respective websites, as follows:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/work/staffsurvey/index.htm

http://www.vmd.gov.uk/About/StaffSurvey.htm

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many thefts from his Department have been recorded in the last two years. [31898?]

Dan Norris: The following tables show items of official property reported as lost or stolen in 2008-09 and 2009-10 (to 24 February 2010 only).

Item	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
BlackBerrys	13	6
Cameras	6	1
CD/DVD writers	1	—
Docking stations	2	—
Hard Drives	5	—
Laptops	66	33
Mobile telephones	2	3
Projectors	8	3
Spider phone	6	—
Wacom Bamboo A5 Pen and tablet	1	—
Keyboard	—	2
Monitors	—	7
Tom Tom Device	—	2
Desktop PC	—	4
Binoculars	—	2

DEFRA takes the loss of equipment very seriously and advice and guidance is issued regularly about security in an effort to minimise losses.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months. [320401]

Dan Norris: The following tables show the expenditure for first class air and rail travel for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade, for core DEFRA and the agencies that use the Corporate Travel Framework contract, for the 12-month period of February 2009 to January 2010.

To identify spend by those agencies that do not use the Corporate Travel Framework or where it has been incurred outside these arrangements can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(a) Ministers travel—February 2009 to January 2010

	Expenditure (£)
Core DEFRA	14,850.64

(b) Staff travel—February 2009 to January 2010

	Grade	*Expenditure (£)*
Animal Health Agency	5	535.14
	6	2,162.26
	7	3,474.50
	AO	9,019.78
	EO	1,261.14
	HEO	803.22
	SCS	2,096.14
	SEO	1,188.11
Animal Health Agency total		20,540.29
Core DEFRA	5	36,832.46
	6	88,169.88
	7	257,929.78
	AA	885.00
	AO	6,375.38
	EO	13,683.44
	HEO	132,837.21
	SCS	130,380.13
	SEO	105,905.87
Core DEFRA total		757,281.32
Rural Payments Agency	5	4,281.12
	6	73,242.89
	7	123,106.59
	AO	17,508.27
	CX	79.00
	EO	17,993.47
	G6	3,343.88
	G7	15,884.63
	GR7	515.32
	GRA	4,310.98
	HEO	70,184.61
	HMI	92.52
	SCS	30,490.98
	SEN	106.35
	SEO	133,752.07
	SHM	2,143.08
	TEA	1,020.64
Rural Payments Agency total		498,056.40
Government Decontamination Service	5	38.82
	6	801.10
	7	1,439.68
	AO	61.00
	HEO	155.14
	SEO	53.52
Government Decontamination Service total		2,365.76
Marine and Fisheries Agency	5	378.00
	6	3,045.10
	7	4,428.54
	AO	854.64
	EO	65.32
	HEO	2,070.80
	SCS	1,412.47
	SEO	2,996.07

(b) Staff travel—February 2009 to January 2010

	Grade	Expenditure (£)
Marine and Fisheries Agency total		15,250.94
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Studies	7	1,363.65
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Studies total		1,363.65

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to remove the regulatory provisions which restrict councils collecting recyclable and residual waste from nearby household and business premises at the same time. [323152]

Dan Norris: There are no regulatory provisions that prohibit local authorities collecting waste from household and business premises at the same time. However, we are aware that the Landfill Allowances Trading Scheme (LATS) has been cited as a barrier to the collection of waste from business premises by local authorities.

The consultation 'Meeting EU Landfill Diversion Targets' published on 18 March asks for views on the effectiveness of existing policies, including LATS. Responses from this consultation and further work by DEFRA will inform a second consultation later in the year on the most effective combination of policies to ensure that England meets its landfill diversion targets. We anticipate that the impact of LATS on council provision of waste services for businesses will be a consideration in this wider assessment of the policies needed to ensure England meets its landfill diversion targets.

Meanwhile, DEFRA is looking at ways to encourage greater recycling of waste from business premises, especially small and medium-sized enterprises. In particular, we are funding the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to test a number of trade waste 'Bring Banks' and trade waste collection schemes to establish how some of the barriers to higher recycling can be most effectively overcome.

Foxes

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the extent to which urban foxes cause *(a)* hygiene and *(b)* litter problems. [323135]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has made no assessment of the hygiene and litter problems caused by urban foxes.

National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group in the last 24 months. [323151]

Dan Norris: The National Fly-tipping Prevention Group consists of the representatives of landowner organisations, enforcement bodies and Government. It meets on a quarterly basis to advise and influence Government and to share best practice on the prevention of fly-tipping on public and private land.

The group recently created a website which provides information to anybody who wishes to prevent or deal with fly-tipping:

http://www.tacklingflytipping.com/

The most recent available sets of minutes have been placed in the House Library.

Recycling

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent to which the recycling industry can contribute towards meeting Courtauld II recycling targets in local authority areas; and if he will make a statement. [323701]

Dan Norris: Phase II of the Courtauld Commitment includes a new target for a 10 per cent. reduction in the carbon impact of grocery packaging: an estimated 1.1 million tonne CO_2 equivalent emissions reduction through reducing the weight, increasing the recycling rates and increasing the recycled content of grocery packaging.

This new target is a key contribution to our aim of optimising packaging reductions, wider eco-design and increasing recycling, as set out in the Packaging Strategy. It will encourage companies to take up recycled contents in their packaging—another objective of the Packaging Strategy.

Separate from the Courtauld Commitment, DEFRA and the devolved Administrations have recently published a consultation document proposing higher producer responsibility targets for packaging, covering 2011-20. The consultation seeks views on the extent to which the recycling industry (among others) can help achieve local recycling targets. The consultation can be found at

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/packaging-regs/index.htm

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities did not meet their targets for recycling waste in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what percentage of waste was recycled in each such area in that period. [323703]

Dan Norris: During the 2008-09 period, 21 local authorities did not meet their target for recycling household waste in line with National Indicator 192. The targets and percentages of waste actually recycled in each of these authorities are shown in the following table:

Local authority	Target	Percentage Actual
Bradford City MDC	29	26.31
Bristol City Council	37.3	35.52
Bury MBC	28	26.87
Croydon LB	28	27.71

Local authority	Target	Percentage Actual
Greenwich LB	43.4	42.09
Hammersmith and Fulham LB	28	27.84
Haringey LB	28	22.13
Hillingdon LB	35.5	35.32
Hounslow LB	25	23.6
Manchester City Council MBC	24	20.28
Newham LB	20	15.4
Plymouth City Council	31	30.04
Slough	26	25.68
South Gloucestershire Council	43	39.84
South Tyneside MBC	28.5	27.62
St. Helens MBC	30	28.78
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	28.7	26.84
Sunderland City Council MBC	28	25.59
Tameside MBC	30	28.78
Waltham Forest LB	34	27.84
Westminster City Council LB	25	23.04

Reptiles: Smuggling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reptiles were seized by HM Revenue and Customs under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species in each year 2000; and how many were seized in each seizure. [322454]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The numbers of live reptiles seized by officers of HM Revenue and Customs under the convention of international trade in endangered species (CITES) for the financial years 2005-06 to 2008-09 are given in the following table.

Information on all CITES seizures made by the former HM Customs and Excise prior to 2005 is available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/wildlife/trade-crime/cites/action-uk.htm#enforcement

	Seizures	Number of specimens	Seizures include
2005-06	27	1,336	501 Leopard tortoises 220 Caiman crocodiles 149 Royal pythons 170 Terrapins
2006-07	38	1,313	325 Terrapins 294 Spiny tailed lizards 138 Leopard tortoises
2007-08	21	347	200 Tortoises
2008-09	32	1,044	356 Turtles 111 Leopard tortoises 100 Hingeback tortoises 98 Spiny tailed lizards

Rodents

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the most recent survey on rodents derived from data from the English House Condition Survey to be published. [323150]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The next report covering the period up to 2007 will be available soon. Final revisions are under way and we aim for it to be available by the end of May 2010.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many days staff of his Department and its agencies spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320612]

Dan Norris: We have interpreted 'Trade Union Activity' as the facility time DEFRA and our agencies provide to our trade union representatives.

DEFRA and our agencies currently provide trade union representatives with approximately 6,805 days facility time annually.

For the year 2009-10 the cost to the Department has been estimated as £1,200,000.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each response to his Department's consultation on household waste incentive scheme *(a)* application and designation guidance, *(b)* technical issues guidance, *(c)* finance guidance, *(d)* coverage and disadvantaged groups guidance and *(e)* unauthorised deposit or disposal guidance. [323053]

Dan Norris: Copies of responses received to the Department's June 2008 informal consultation on draft guidance for waste reduction schemes will be made available in the Library in due course.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the respondents were to his Department's consultation on *(a)* incentives for recycling by households of May 2007, *(b)* draft guidance on household waste incentive schemes of June 2008 and *(c)* statutory good recycling service guidance of September 2008. [323054]

Dan Norris: The list of respondents for the Consultation on the Incentives for Recycling by Households, May 2007, can be found in the summary of responses which is available on DEFRA's website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/incentives/documents/incentives-responses-summary2007.pdf

The respondents to the informal consultation on draft guidance, June 2008, are as listed. Some respondents submitted more than one response.

Absorbent Hygiene Products Manufacturers Association
Association of Charity Shops
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Birmingham City Council
Bromsgrove District Council (did not comment on consultation documents)
Cambridgeshire County Council
Campaign for Real Recycling
Chartered Institution of Wastes Management
County Surveyors Society
Coventry City Council
ESRC BRASS Centre, Cardiff University
GMB Union
Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority
Hampshire County Council
Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee
London Borough of Sutton
Norfolk County Council
Paediatric Continence Forum
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Responses from private individuals
South Gloucestershire Council (did not comment on consultation documents)
Waste Watch

The list of respondents to the formal consultation on statutory Good Recycling Service guidance, September 2008, can be found in the summary of responses which is available on DEFRA's website:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/incentives/documents/summary-consultation-responses.pdf

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 322W, on waste disposal: fees and charges, if he will place in the Library a copy of each response received to the informal consultation on draft guidance except the responses received from private individuals. [323532]

Dan Norris: Copies of responses received to the Department's June 2008 informal consultation on draft guidance for waste reduction schemes will be made available in the House Library in due course.

Waste Disposal: Public Opinion

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research has been commissioned by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Environment Agency and *(c)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme on public attitudes to (i) waste collection and (ii) waste disposal in the last three years; and what the (A) title and (B) completion date of each such research project was. [323180]

Dan Norris: DEFRA commissioned the following projects on public attitudes to waste collection and waste disposal in the last three years:

Building Greater Understanding of the Techniques and Processes Required to Promote Sustainable Waste Management through Behaviour Change Programme—completed June 2008.

The Organic Waste Use Collection—completed October 2007.

Enhancing Participation in Kitchen Waste Collection—completed March 2010.

Attitudes to the Use of Organic Resources on Land—completed February 2009.

Tracker Survey of Public Attitudes and Behaviour Towards the Environment—completed September 2009.

Testing Innovative Approaches for Achieving Sustainable Behaviours - Maiden Lane Gardens Food-Loop project—ongoing.

The Environment Agency has not carried out any research in this area.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) undertook the following projects:

Consumer Attitudes to Waste and Recycling Services. The conclusions from this research were used to inform the development of the Waste Collection Commitment—completed in September 2009.

Barriers to Recycling at Home—completed in August 2008.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department and its agencies have spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324427]

Chris Mole: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department and its non-departmental bodies are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323072]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport conducts its procurement in accordance with UK Government's value for money policies and principles, utilising collaborative arrangements where these are available and in accordance with the legal and regulatory framework.

The Department and its agencies generally provide staff catering and vending services via either an estates private finance initiative or facilities management contracts. These provisions are typically provided on a commercial basis and are not directly subsidised, and they operate in a competitive environment.

For example, the Department's HQ facilities management contract requires the contractor to comply with Government guidance on sustainable food and farming in the delivery of the contract. The contract requires the contractor to take account of the various Government food initiatives, and directs them to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs websites, where the contractor

is encouraged to consider higher level schemes such as The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Freedom Foods standards.

Another example is the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's estates private finance initiative contract, which requires the service provider to comply with the sustainable food procurement initiative and other Government guidance on food and farming in delivery of the service.

As and when each of the Department's catering contracts needs to be renewed, consideration will be given to emerging higher level welfare standards when specifying replacement contracts.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323455]

Chris Mole: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322655]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has in place access control measures in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, issues staff awareness guidance on its Intranet and provides lockable pedestals and personal lockers. It operates a clear desk policy, ensuring that all personal or sensitive material is locked away at the end of each working day. Reminders on security awareness are disseminated to employees via security liaison officers within the Department teams and 24/7 security staff are employed at principal sites within the Department.

Electronic Warfare

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of an electromagnetic pulse strike caused *(a)* deliberately and *(b)* through solar activity on the critical infrastructure of his Department. [321758]

Chris Mole: The Government's Cyber Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, published alongside and reflected in the National Security Strategy update of June 2009, considers a number of methods of cyber attack, including those that generate high levels of radio frequency power that can damage or disrupt unprotected electronics.

In addition, the Communications Electronic Security Group (CESG) provides Government Departments with advice and guidance on how to protect against, detect and mitigate various types of cyber attack.

It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for this Department to confirm whether it holds information about assessments of the effects of an electromagnetic pulse. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of the UK's critical national infrastructure and thereby expose it to potential threats, which is not in the public interest.

High Speed Two

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on the route for the High Speed Two rail link; and if he will make a statement. [323478]

Chris Mole: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has spoken to a number of stakeholders, including representatives of the Chilterns Conservation Board and the National Trust, as well as Members of this House whose constituencies lie on the recommended route. The Department for Transport also receives general correspondence covering many policy areas, including high speed rail and the conurbations it may serve, from a number of individuals, organisations and companies.

In identifying its recommended route for a high speed rail line from London to the west midlands, HS2 Ltd. held confidential discussions with relevant county and local planning authorities regarding specific options. A summary list and the full text of various detailed submissions which stakeholders submitted during the engagement process undertaken by HS2 Ltd. was published alongside the Command Paper.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what costs his Department has incurred in the preparation of High Speed Two proposals for a new rail line linking London with the West Midlands. [323699]

Chris Mole: HS2 Ltd.'s budget for the period between 14 January 2009 and the end of the 2009-10 financial year is £8.6 million.

In addition, existing staff and budget resources within the Department for Transport were deployed in the preparation of the Command Paper, 'High Speed Rail'.

High Speed Two: Job Creation

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely number of construction jobs that will be created by High Speed Two. [323712]

Chris Mole: HS2 Ltd.'s report, published by the Government on 11 March 2010, estimates that around 10,000 jobs could be created during construction, with a further 2,000 permanent jobs through operation of High Speed Two.

Should High Speed Two be taken forward, Government will work with industry to draw up a High Speed Rail Industrial Strategy, including the establishment of a high level supply chain forum. Further details can be found in chapter 12 of the High Speed Rail Command Paper (CM 7827), copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Network Rail: Industrial Accidents

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* employees and *(b)* contractors of Network Rail have been (i) killed and (ii) injured at work in each year since its inception; and what cause was attributed to each incident. [323728]

Chris Mole: Accidents and incidents on the railways are reported to the independent Office of Rail Regulation under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95).

Table 1 lists the number of Network Rail employees and its contractors fatally injured while undertaking railway operations reported to the independent Office of Rail Regulation. These data exclude such employees fatally injured in road traffic accidents and fatalities arising out of a railway under construction, the latter being reported to the Health and Safety Executive.

The data also exclude other railway employees (e.g. train crew) that have been fatally injured on Network Rail infrastructure. Table 2 lists all reportable railway employee fatalities that have occurred on Network Rail infrastructure since Network Rail was formed in October 2002 to the end of 2008.

Injury data for Network Rail employees and contractors, and information on the cause of each incident could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Fatalities to Network Rail employees and contractors October 2002-08

	Network Rail employee	*Network Rail contractor*	*Total*
2002 (October to December)	0	0	0
2003	0	4	4
2004	0	8	8
2005	0	3	3
2006	0	1	1
2007	2	0	2
2008	0	2	2

Table 2: Fatalities to railway employees on Network Rail infrastructure October 2002-08

	Number
2002 (October to December)	0
2003	4
2004	10
2005	5
2006	3
2007	2
2008	2

Network Rail: Manpower

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff were employed at Network Rail in each year since its inception. [323722]

Chris Mole: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Railway Signals

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many signals passed at danger incidents have occurred in each of the last five years. [323718]

Chris Mole: The number of signals passed at danger incidents that have occurred in each of the last five years are shown in the following table.

	Number of signals passed at danger
2005	338
2006	349
2007	325
2008	330
2009	261

Since the introduction of the Train Protection and Warning System, there has been a significant and sustained reduction in the risk from signals passed at danger.

Railway Signals: Accidents

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many signals passed at danger incidents were attributable to *(a)* driver error, *(b)* defective signals, *(c)* obscured signals or *(d)* another cause in each of the last five years. [323730]

Chris Mole: There have been no fatalities or injuries caused by signals passed at danger on Britain's railways in the last five years, and the numbers of signals passed at danger are decreasing year on year. Information on specific causes of these incidents could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* injuries and *(c)* incidents of damage to property have been caused by signals passed at danger incidents in each of the last five years. [323731]

Chris Mole: There have been no fatalities or injuries caused by signals passed at danger on Britain's railways in the last five years.

Data for incidents of damage to property caused by signals passed at danger are not held.

Railways: Accidents

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* drivers, *(b)* conductors or other train staff and *(c)* passengers have been (i) killed and (ii) injured in railway accidents that did not occur within railway stations in each of the last 10 years; and what cause was attributed to each incident. [323727]

Chris Mole: Accidents and incidents on the railways are reported to the independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and

Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95). Under these regulations, the geographical location of the accident/ incident is recorded. There is no further breakdown of location into a sub-category, e.g. station, signal box, on the line. Therefore, the breakdown of the data for accidents that have not occurred at stations and the cause of each accident could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the number of fatal injuries and non fatal injuries for the period 1999 to 2008 for all railway employees, including contractors, and passengers that have occurred on railway infrastructure can be provided and is shown in Tables 1 and 2. The data for railway employees have been broken down into train drivers, conductors and other train crew and other railway employees.

Table 1: Fatal injuries, passengers and railway employees 1999 to 2008, all railways

	Passengers	Train drivers	Conductors and other train crew	Other railway employees	Total
1999	54	2	0	3	59
2000	15	0	0	4	19
2001	17	2	2	5	26
2002	23	0	0	4	27
2003	13	1	0	4	18
2004	13	1	0	9	23
2005	10	2	0	2	16
2006	8	2	1	1	12
2007	6	0	0	2	8
2008	5	0	0	4	9

Table 2: Non-fatal injuries, passengers and railway employees 1999 to 2008, all railways

	Passengers	Train drivers	Conductors and other train crew	Other railway employees	Total
1999	2,737	426	182	1,875	5,220
2000	2,697	401	164	1,938	5,220
2001	2,564	409	141	1,884	4,998
2002	2,485	380	151	1,953	4,969
2003	2,550	372	167	1,809	4,898
2004	2,627	327	280	1,693	4,927
2005	2,800	326	258	1,695	5,079
2006	2,539	291	241	1,215	4,286
2007	2,801	269	263	959	4,232
2008	2,489	347	225	836	3,797

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* injuries and *(c)* incidents of damage to property on the railways have been recorded in each of the last five years; and what cause was attributed to each incident. [323729]

Chris Mole: The number of fatalities and injuries on the railways for the period 2004-08 is shown in Tables 1 and 2. The information is based on accidents notified to the independent Office of Rail Regulation under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95).

Table 1: Fatal injuries, 2004-08

Number

Category	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Passengers	13	10	8	6	5
Railway employees[1]	10	6	4	2	4
Other members of the public	12	17	11	14	19
Trespassers and suicides	253	281	320	287	291
Total	288	314	343	309	319

[1] Includes contractors.

Table 2: Non-fatal injuries, 2004-08

Number

Category	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Passengers	2,627	2,800	2,539	2,801	2,489
Railway employees[1]	2,300	2,279	1,947	1,431	1,308
Other members of the public	69	60	73	51	58
Trespassers and suicides	132	127	140	122	156
Total	5,128	5,266	4,699	4,405	4,011

[1] Includes contractors.

The number of incidents of damage to property is neither reported or held by the independent Office of Rail Regulation.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the last 100 railway incidents reported to the Office of Rail Regulation, Her Majesty's Railway Inspectorate and the Health and Safety Executive were in each constituent part of the UK. [323733]

Chris Mole: In line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, the independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is unable to provide information on the last 100 incidents reported to them.

Statements of how ORR is following the code can be found on its website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1862

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* individuals, *(b)* firms, *(c)* companies and *(d)* other organisations have been prosecuted for breaches of (i) health and safety and (ii) other legislation in respect of railway incidents in each year since its inception. [323734]

Chris Mole: Since its inception as the independent safety and economic regulator for Britain's railways on 1 April 2006, the independent Office of Rail Regulation has brought 20 successful prosecutions for breaches of health and safety legislation in respect of railway incidents. Details of these prosecutions can be found on the independent Office of Rail Regulation's website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk

The independent Office of Rail Regulation has not brought any prosecutions for breaches of other legislation.

Details of prosecutions taken by the Health and Safety Executive prior to 2006 can be found in the Health and Safety Executive annual reports on railway safety, copies of which are available from the Libraries of the House.

Railways: Fares

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent progress has been made on the provision of through tickets; and if he will make a statement. [323600]

Chris Mole: Each train operator's passenger licence requires them to be a party to, and comply with, arrangements for through tickets approved by the Secretary of State.

The arrangements are contained in an inter-operator agreement called the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement and ensure that through tickets are available to all other rail destinations in Great Britain. There are also arrangements for through tickets to other networks including, for example, the London Underground.

Road Traffic: Severn Bridge

Jessica Morden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when his Department last assessed the traffic flows across the Severn crossings. [323583]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency reviews traffic flow data on a monthly basis which is collected by Severn River Crossing plc, the operator for the crossings.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on the volume of traffic moving across the Severn crossings at different times of the day. [323584]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency holds traffic data broken down into hourly, daily and monthly flows for westbound traffic on the Severn crossings.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the average number of vehicles using the Severn crossings at each time of day; and if he will make a statement. [323585]

Chris Mole: Vehicle numbers are counted in the westbound direction as part of the toll collection, which is in that direction only. The average numbers of westbound vehicles using the Severn crossings during 2009 for each hour of the day are given in the following table:

Severn crossings: Average hourly vehicle flow during 2009 (westbound)

Time	Vehicle flows
00:00-01:00	344
01:00-02:00	240
02:00-03:00	200
03:00-04:00	180
04:00-05:00	214
05:00-06:00	365
06:00-07:00	841
07:00-08:00	1,663
08:00-09:00	1,891
09:00-10:00	1,864
10:00-11:00	1,958
11:00-12:00	2,140
12:00-13:00	2,269
13:00-14:00	2,356
14:00-15:00	2,478
15:00-16:00	2,776
16:00-17:00	3,384
17:00-18:00	3,555
18:00-19:00	2,867
19:00-20:00	1,821
20:00-21:00	1,345
21:00-22:00	1,004
22:00-23:00	757
23:00-24:00	530
Total	37,042

Jessica Morden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many vehicles in each charging category travel across the Severn crossings on average each day at each time of day. [323586]

Chris Mole: Vehicle numbers are counted in the westbound direction as part of the toll collection, which is in that direction only. The average hourly flows of vehicles in each charging category travelling westbound during 2009 across the Severn crossings are detailed in the following table.

Severn crossings: average hourly flows during 2009 (westbound)

Time	Class1 (£5.50)	Class2 (£10.90)	Class3 (£16.40)	Exempt
00:00-01:00	242	20	80	3
01:00-02:00	136	18	83	3
02:00-03:00	93	17	88	2
03:00-04:00	70	19	89	1
04:00-05:00	78	23	110	2
05:00-06:00	133	51	177	4
06:00-07:00	421	156	257	7
07:00-08:00	1,101	285	260	16
08:00-09:00	1,401	238	237	15
09:00-10:00	1,416	201	233	14
10:00-11:00	1,519	189	232	18
11:00-12:00	1,694	193	236	19
12:00-13:00	1,795	206	246	22
13:00-14:00	1,857	227	249	23
14:00-15:00	1,952	254	247	26
15:00-16:00	2,221	295	228	31
16:00-17:00	2,807	329	202	47
17:00-18:00	3,087	250	167	52
18:00-19:00	2,525	164	142	36
19:00-20:00	1,573	106	122	20
20:00-21:00	1,147	77	109	12
21:00-22:00	836	54	104	10
22:00-23:00	618	39	93	7
23:00-24:00	415	27	84	3
Total	29,137	3,438	4,075	393

Roads: Tolls

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what funding his Department has received for *(a)* the road pricing demonstration projects and *(b)* other funds associated with national road pricing in each of the last five years; and how much he expects to receive for such projects in each of the last five years. [319660]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has received no funding in connection with the Demonstrations Project or with any other work it has done on road pricing.

Speed Limits

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress his Department has made on the development of a digital road map containing speed limit data; and when he expects such a map to be available to the public. [323934]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has completed development of a draft technical document that gives traffic authorities guidance on how to collect and manage digital speed limit data in a nationally consistent way. This draft is being tested through pilots, first in Lancashire as part of a Road Safety Partnership Grant-funded project looking at an advisory form of Intelligent Speed Adaptation, and more recently through a second pilot with Greater Manchester, building on work they have started as part of their review of A and B road speed limits. The technical document will be made available to authorities to use following any necessary post-pilot revisions.

Transport Innovation Fund: Reading Berkshire

John Howell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what correspondence his Department has had with Reading borough council on its bid for funds from the Transport Innovation Fund in each month of 2010. [324024]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport exchanged correspondence with Reading borough council in January 2010 about economic appraisal issues relating to their proposal for a Low Emission Zone, which formed part of the council's bid to the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) submitted at the end of January 2010.

The Department also received in January 2010 a request from the council for additional pump-priming funding for work on modelling and the economic and environmental appraisal of options relating to development of their TIF proposals. The Department replied in February 2010 confirming the award of funding for this work.

The Department wrote to Reading borough council about their TIF bid in March 2010 following the announcement that a new Urban Challenge Fund will replace TIF. A copy of the letter sent to the council is available on the Department's website under the heading 'Transport Innovation Fund' at:

www.dft.gov.uk/foi/responses/2010.

Unite

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* facilities and *(b)* staff time (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies provide to trade union staff representatives of Unite; and at what annual cost to his Department. [323960]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has staff represented by Unite at the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA).

In relation to VOSA:

(a) Unite staff have access to and use of the same standard office facilities as other staff

(b) 129 days (equal to 0.59 full-time equivalent) were allocated in year 2009-10

The estimated salary costs were £15,400 for 2009-10

GCDA allow official trade union representatives paid time off to carry out union duties relating to GCDA and relevant training to carry out official duties. GCDA can provide further information relating to annual costs only at disproportionate cost.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Recruitment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has spent under each budget heading on the recruitment of additional staff in response to the recession in each of the last two years. [322176]

Jonathan Shaw: The amount spent on recruitment by the Department in response to the recession in the last two years cannot be provided, as recruitment costs are not recorded separately within our financial systems.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 816W, on departmental telephone services, whether her Department awarded contracts for the provision of services relating to its main customer contact number. [324117]

Jonathan Shaw: All telephony services are provided to the Department under a contract with BT; this contract covers all customer contact numbers.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what methodology her Department used to determine whether answers to Questions in the formulation "if she will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of her Department's policies since 1997" could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if she will make a statement. [323876]

Jonathan Shaw: When deciding whether a response to a parliamentary question is likely to incur disproportionate cost, DWP staff follow the guidance set by the Cabinet Office which is as follows:

Disproportionate cost

7.26 There is an advisory cost limit known as the disproportionate cost threshold (DCT) which is the level above which Departments can refuse to answer a PQ. The current disproportionate cost threshold for written questions (the limit does not apply to oral questions) is £800 (from 20 January 2010)[6].

7.27 Since 1991 the disproportionate cost threshold (DCT) has been set by HM Treasury at eight times the average marginal cost of answering Written Parliamentary Questions. Marginal cost is judged as the direct cost of civil servants' time. Average marginal cost is based on a one-month sample of all Written parliamentary Questions answered by those departments with the highest volume of questions. Such samples are taken on a quinquennial basis. In years between quinquennial samples, the Treasury applies indexation to the DCT, but only increases it in £50 steps to avoid the need for frequent small changes. HM Treasury has established the average cost of answering of a written PQ as £154.00 and an oral question as £425.00.

7.28 Where officials are recommending that a question is not answered due to disproportionate cost, a note setting out the reasons, justifications and the full costs should be provided to the responsible Minister. The cost estimate should be based on a calculation of the cost of civil servants of the relevant grade working for the required length of time to assemble the information. Cabinet Office guidance for officials drafting answers to PQs refers to the fact that 'where information is being refused on the grounds of disproportionate cost, there should be a presumption that any of the requested information which is readily available should be provided.' A Minister may still decide to answer a question, even if providing the answer results in costs above the DCT, for example, on public interest grounds.

7.29 It is practice in some departments to agree to provide a Member information initially refused (on disproportionate cost grounds) by paying the balance over the disproportionate cost threshold. However, this option may not be available if the relevant officials would not in practice be available to do the work.

7.30 It should be noted that the 'disproportionate cost' answer is intended to be used where the information is held in an accessible form but is expensive to identify. It is not for cases where the information is not held at all (in the latter case the answer would say 'the information is not held' or similar).

7.31 The suggested wording for a disproportionate cost answer is:

"The information is not readily available/held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost."

Newspaper Licensing Agency

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what payment from *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies to the Newspaper Licensing Agency was made in each of the last 10 years. [315587]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions was created in June 2001. The payments made to the Newspaper Licensing Agency (excluding VAT) in each full year since then are set out in the following table. The press cuttings to which they refer cover the whole range of the Department's businesses including the Pension, Disability and Carers Service, and Jobcentre Plus.

The volume of cuttings has increased considerably throughout the recession as mentions of the work of Jobcentre Plus have increased. Since December 2008 this has also included coverage from regional titles. A review of the Department's licensing arrangements for press cuttings is currently under way.

	£
2002-03	33,959
2003-04	63,471
2004-05	70,578
2005-06	93,781
2006-07	90,141
2007-08	94,631
2008-09	153,189
2009-10	208,027

Pensions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of those employed in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector were contributing to a pension plan in each of the last 10 years; [321491]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector employees had no pension provision in each of the last 10 years. [321492]

Angela Eagle: The available information is set out in the following tables. These estimates relate to employee pension participation in employer-sponsored pension schemes and the data are presented at the employee jobs level rather than an individual level, as an individual may have more than one job and the pension provision may vary between jobs. In the circumstances, there may be some double counting both within and between sectors for those employees with more than one job.

(a) Number of public sector employee jobs by pension provision

	Total with pension provision[1] (thousand)	*Percentage*	*Total without pension provision (thousand)*	*Percentage*
1997	4,855	79	1,259	21
1998	4,954	79	1,306	21
1999	5,158	81	1,234	19
2000	5,230	82	1,179	18
2001	5,170	82	1,156	18
2002	5,216	81	1,220	19
2003	5,427	82	1,162	18
2004	5,257	84	970	16
2005	5,543	84	1,085	16
2006	5,556	84	1,040	16
2007	5,703	84	1,055	16
2008	5,755	84	1,063	16
2009	5,930	84	1,116	16

[1] All employees including those whose pay was affected by absence.

Notes:

1. 1997 is the first year for which ASHE pension membership data are available.
2. Public sector includes central Government, local authorities, public corporations and nationalised industries.
3. Figures will include some employees who are members of a pension scheme but not making an employee contribution, for example through a salary sacrifice scheme.
4. Figures for number of jobs are for indicative purposes only and should not be considered an accurate estimate of employee job counts.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), United Kingdom.

(b) Number of private sector employee jobs by pension provision

	Total with pension provision[2] (thousand)	Percentage	Total without pension provision (thousand)	Percentage
1997	7,854	46	9,128	54
1998	8,034	46	9,427	54
1999	8,220	46	9,592	54
2000	8,363	46	9,763	54
2001	8,530	46	9,911	54
2002	8,872	48	9,537	52
2003	8,637	47	9,734	53
2004	8,007	44	10,007	56
2005	7,861	42	10,694	58
2006	7,942	43	10,722	57
2007	7,845	41	11,291	59
2008	7,576	39	11,764	61
2009	6,957	37	11,655	63

[1] All employees including those whose pay was affected by absence.

Notes:

1. 1997 is the first year for which ASHE pension membership data are available.
2. Private sector includes employees from private companies, sole proprietors, partnerships, and non-profit institutions serving households.
3. Figures will include some employees who are members of a pension scheme but not making an employee contribution, for example through a salary sacrifice scheme.
4. Figures for number of jobs are for indicative purposes only and should not be considered an accurate estimate of employee job counts.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), United Kingdom.

Unemployment Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new claims there were for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance in each year since 1997. [317648]

Jonathan Shaw: We are currently looking closely at the process of migrating incapacity benefits customers to employment and support allowance, to develop a detailed strategy.

We are using the work capability assessment in employment and support allowance to fairly and accurately assess an individual's functional capability and therefore their entitlement to benefit. The assessment will correctly identify those people who have limited capability for work because of a physical or mental health condition, and will ensure that people who are able to undertake work related activity receive the support they need to help them prepare to get into work.

The available information is in the tables.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance commencements—Great Britain and abroad since 1997

	Number of commencements
1997	981,100
1998	849,700
1999	815,400
2000	791,900
2001	762,600
2002	726,300
2003	707,500
2004	673,700
2005	626,100
2006	603,900
2007	619,000
2008	560,700

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Years are based on the sum of four quarters ending February, May, August and November.
3. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. Data will include those claimants who make another claim to incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance within 90 days of their previous claim terminating.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample.

Number of employment and support allowance commencements—Great Britain and abroad

	Number of commencements
2008	54,150
Total 2009 (year to date)[1]	466,970

[1] Provisional

Source: Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Survey

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Data published at http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
3. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. Data are only available for the first three quarters of 2009, so the 2009 total is the total in the year to date.
5. The figures relating to employment support allowance have been thoroughly quality assured to National Statistics standard. However it should be noted that this is a new benefit using a new data source which may not have reached steady state in terms of operational processing and retrospection. Hence most recent data shown are provisional.

Vocational Training

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations she has received on the introduction of a local student, local provider approach to residential training centres; and what recent assessment she has made of the likely effect of the introduction of this approach on *(a)* the employment prospects of participants with a disability and *(b)* the level of funding provided for residential training centres. [323003]

Jonathan Shaw: Residential training college providers were first informed in January 2009 that their current contracts are due to finish in 2011, and that future contracts will be awarded following an open competition.

Department officials have engaged with existing and potential providers on numerous occasions to discuss the future provision. We are also actively considering how best to engage customers (service users) as we progress this work.

We know from evaluation undertaken in 2006 that residential courses tend to exclude some customers, including those who have caring responsibilities. The new contracting arrangements seek to ensure that appropriate support will be available locally to a broader range of customers including women, ethnic minority groups and those who are unable to travel long distances.

Currently coverage is uneven; there is no provision in Scotland, Wales and the North West of England. The new contracts offer an important opportunity to provide a better geographical coverage, which will be an important aim of the open competition. It will also help ensure that potential customers of this expensive provision are not disadvantaged because of where they live. We want to use this opportunity to increase the focus on employment, seeing more people helped into work, as well as obtaining better value for money.

Following open competition and a broadening of the supplier base, we anticipate that more customers will be able to access this provision locally, which in turn will enable a significant reduction in the unit cost.

The Department is responsible for ensuring it achieves the best value for money for any provision it contracts for. This is done through its Commissioning Strategy and by using open competition to procure any new provision. We recognise that the existing residential training providers funding may be affected by the open competition but, in the same way as other potential providers, they will be able to submit a bid to deliver the provision if they wish to do so. We have given current residential training providers over two years notice so that they can plan ahead.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to questions in the formulation "if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997" could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323868]

Mr. Thomas: No such parliamentary questions have been tabled to the Secretary of State for International Development.

Developing Countries: Tuberculosis

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to seek to ensure adequate levels of funding for research and development of new drugs, diagnostics and vaccines to reduce the number of cases of MDR and XDR tuberculosis in developing countries. [323670]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £24.5 million, from 2006 to 2013, to the Global Alliance for Tuberculosis Drug Development (TBA). The TBA is a not-for-profit public private partnership developing new tuberculosis drugs that will shorten treatment, be effective against susceptible and resistant strains of tuberculosis and be compatible with antiretroviral therapies for those patients who are co-infected with HIV and tuberculosis.

DFID is also providing £12 million to the Tropical Disease Research special programme at WHO, from 2008 to 2013. The work of this programme has included accelerating the development of new diagnostics, including tuberculosis, and gaining evidence about how best to combine therapy for HIV and tuberculosis co-infection.

Iraq: Depleted Uranium

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) if he will place in the Library *(a)* a copy of the letter from the Minister of State of 3 September 2009 on depleted uranium and *(b)* other material held by his Department relevant to a possible connection between the use of depleted uranium and alleged increases in the incidence of (i) birth defects and (ii) cancer in Fallujah; [323357]

(2) what assessment he has made of claims that the incidence of *(a)* birth defects and *(b)* cancer has increased amongst residents of Fallujah as a result of the use of depleted uranium; and if he will make a statement. [323358]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I will place in the Library a copy of the letter by the hon. Member for Harrow, West (Mr. Thomas) of 3 September 2009.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has consulted a number of international and Iraqi organisations with expertise in the health sector in Fallujah about alleged increases in birth defects in Fallujah. These organisations have confirmed to DFID that they are not aware of any reliable data that show such an increase in birth defects. DFID is not aware of any reliable data that demonstrate an increase in cases of cancer in Fallujah and has not carried out an assessment.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many smoking shelters have been built for his Department's staff in the last five years; and at what cost. [324362]

Mr. Sutcliffe: None.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to Questions in the formulation if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997 could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323860]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department seeks to answer all parliamentary questions that do not incur disproportionate cost. Disproportionate cost is determined via a disproportionate cost threshold (DCT). The current DCT is £800, announced in Parliament by the Treasury on 20 January 2010.

A standard template was devised for use in response to all such questions. This standard template drew on a pre-existing central repository of departmental information, with contributions from NDPBs where appropriate. Using a standard template, which could be modified depending on the constituency, ensured that relevant information could be provided but in a format and content that did not incur disproportionate cost.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department and its non-departmental bodies are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323069]

Joan Ruddock: This Department adheres wherever possible to the key objectives of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI), which advises public sector bodies how they can specify higher animal welfare standards, including farm assurance schemes and higher level schemes such as the RSPCA's Freedom Foods standards. BaxterStorey, our contracted catering supplier for DECC, are committed to buying 100 per cent. British meat, both reared and processed, and are accredited to the Red Tractor Farm Assurance Scheme, demonstrating robust support for enhanced animal welfare, environmental responsibility, quality produce and supporting British producers.

All eggs used by and provided by BaxterStorey to DECC are British and free range, and all milk used in the kitchens, cafes and hospitality service is British.

Information about the Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fossil Fuels

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the levies on fossil fuels necessary to fund the Renewable Heat Incentive in each of the next five years. [321461]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 10 March 2010]:* Government are looking at options of how best to fund the Renewable Heat Incentive and we will make a further announcement at Budget 2010. At this stage we cannot say for sure what the impact upon fossil fuels will be.

Based on the current proposals for the Renewable Heat Incentive, our estimates of the costs of the RHI financial support for the next five years are:

£56 million in 2011;
£136 million in 2012;
£263 million in 2013;
£456 million in 2014;
£717 million in 2015.

Note:
2009 prices: undiscounted

Gas and Electricity Markets Authority: Finsbury

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 929W, on the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority: public relations, what documents Finsbury has produced for Ofgem as part of its contract in the last 12 months. [324305]

Mr. Kidney: None. Ofgem has made no payment to Finsbury for communications related activities since 2004-05.

Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State f Energy and Climate Change what quantity of hi activity radioactive waste has been returned to ea port in each country of origin in 2010; and whether of the radioactive waste in each consignment arc directly from the reprocessing of imported spent nucle fuel. [3233

Mr. Kidney: Two shipments each consisting of 28 hi level waste (HLW) canisters in one transport flask, wi each canister (vitrified waste and stainless steel) weighi up to 550 kg, have been returned to date in 2010. O shipment was made to Mutsu Ogawara in Japan t other to Vlissingen in the Netherlands.

The HLW being returned is a blend of the HL arising from the reprocessing of overseas and UK spe nuclear fuel. The amount being returned to each countr in an overall programme expected to last some 10 yea is commensurate with the relevant amount of spent fu sent to Sellafield for reprocessing.

In accordance with the UK's policy of waste substitutio overseas intermediate and low level waste will remain the UK and an additional radiologically equivale amount of HLW will be substituted and returned in place.

In the case of the shipment to the Netherlands, this was the only shipment of HLW due to be return there, it included this additional amount of substitut HLW.

Over the programme to return HLW to Japan, t return of substituted HLW will take place.

The details of the status of individual customer HLW returns is a commercial matter between the parti involved.

Wind Power

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of Sta for Energy and Climate Change how many wind farn there are in each county in England. [32136

Mr. Kidney: There are a total of 128 wind farms England spread over the following counties.

County	*Wind farn*
Buckinghamshire	
Cambridgeshire	
City of Bristol	
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	
Cumbria	
Derbyshire	
Devon	
Durham	
Essex	
Gloucestershire	
Greater London	
Kent	
Lancashire	
Lincolnshire	
London	
Merseyside	
Norfolk	

County	Wind farms
Northamptonshire	1
Northumberland	3
Nottinghamshire	2
Oxfordshire	1
Berkshire	1
Shropshire	1
Somerset	2
Staffordshire	1
Suffolk	2
Tyne and Wear	3
Wiltshire	1
Worcestershire	2
Yorkshire	18

JUSTICE

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many retailers have been prosecuted for selling *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* cigarettes to minors in England in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [323633]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in England for 'sale of, or allowing the sale of, alcohol to a person aged under 18' and 'sale of tobacco to underage persons' in England from 2005 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in Tables 1 and 2.

Court proceedings data for 2009 will be available in the autumn of 2010.

Table 1: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for sale, or allowing the sale, of alcohol to a person under 18[1], England, 2005-08[2, 3]

	Number
2005	997
2006	1,084
2007	630
2008	412

[1] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes: Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises—Licensing Act 1964 S. 169 A and B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S. 1 Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 S.3 (Sch. Para. 4(1)). Sale of alcohol to person under 18—Licensing Act 2003 S. 146. Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18—Licensing Act 2003 S. 147. Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18—Licensing Act 1964 S. 181A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 S. 17. Persistently selling alcohol to children—Licensing Act 2003 S. 147A as added by Violent Crime reduction Act 2006.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for selling tobacco to underage persons, England, 2005-08[1, 2, 3]

Offence description	Statute	2005	2006	2007[3]	2008
Sale of tobacco etc. to persons under 16 years	Children and Young Persons Act 1933, section 7, as amended by Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991	77	69	67	117

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The Children and Young Persons (Sale of Tobacco etc.) Order 2007 raised the age of sale from 16 to 18 on 1 October 2007. These figures are included in the table. *Source:* Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Children in Care: Child Trust Fund

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly) of 17 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 853W, on children in care: Child Trust Fund, from which provider child trust funds managed by the Official Solicitor or Accountant of Court on behalf of looked-after children have been re-allocated. [323710]

Mr. Straw: The poorest performers were the Scottish Friendly Managed Growth UK and Engage Investment Growth Fund. In addition funds held in Druids Sheffield Fund were also recommended for switching as limited information regarding performance was available.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of prisoners in England and Wales are serving sentences following conviction for offences related to *(a)* fraud, *(b)* other financial sector crime and *(c)* other white collar crime. [323238]

Claire Ward: At the end of June 2009, the latest date for which figures are available, there were 1,875, or 3 per cent. out of a total of 68,375 prisoners serving sentences for fraud and forgery in all prison establishments in England and Wales.

While statistics are held on the numbers of prisoners serving sentences for fraud and forgery, they cannot be broken down further to show which of these convictions specifically related to the commission of financial sector or "other white collar" crime.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Training: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether employees of the National Offender Management Service are remunerated through his Department's Pay and Pensions Service. [323807]

Mr. Straw: Employees of the National Offender Management Services (NOMS) are remunerated through the Home Office Pay and Pensions Service. This arrangement came about because the Prison Service, which is a part of NOMS, was previously part of the Home Office. There are no plans to alter these arrangements.

TREASURY

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to questions in the formulation "if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997" could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323874]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury seeks to answer all parliamentary questions that do not incur disproportionate cost. Disproportionate cost is determined via a disproportionate cost threshold (DCT). The current DCT is £800, announced in Parliament by ministerial statement on the 20 January 2010.

The calculation of DCT is based on eight times the average marginal cost of answering written PQs. Marginal cost excludes the fixed costs of parliamentary branches and departmental overheads.

Government Departments: Bank Cards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Government procurement cards are in circulation; and how much was spent on such cards in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [323515]

Ian Pearson: During the period January to December 2009 there were 141,693 Government procurement cards in circulation.

For the same period £995,872,758 was spent on these cards.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of *(a)* unauthorised and *(b)* fraudulent transactions using Government procurement cards there have been to date; and who is responsible for assessing the risks of fraud within the scheme. [323517]

Ian Pearson: In the period January-December 2009 no incidents of card misuse were reported by card issuers on the Government procurement card (GPC) framework agreement. Each Department or organisation using GPC is responsible for controlling and monitoring its own card programme and is not required to report incidents centrally.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Government procurement card transactions there were in the last year for which figures are available. [323518]

Ian Pearson: During the period January to December 2009 there were a total of 6,565,825 transactions made on Government procurement cards.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Departments' officials have a Government procurement card; and what the approval mechanisms to authorise expenditure on such cards are. [323519]

Ian Pearson: The current numbers of officials within the HM Treasury family using a Government procurement card are as follows:

HM Treasury: 620

Treasury Solicitors: 46

OGC: 367

Buying Solutions: 340

Debt Management Office: 0

Each organisation has its own rigorous approval mechanism to authorise expenditure on such cards.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the average cost of processing a transaction on a Government procurement card. [323520]

Ian Pearson: This information is not available and in any event would vary by Department or organisation dependant on their internal processes.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which public bodies participate in the Government procurement card scheme. [323521]

Ian Pearson: There are currently 1,649 UK public sector organisations utilising the Government procurement card service. A full list has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions the alignment of the *(a)* criteria and *(b)* guidance used to determine hardship when considering the recovery of monies owed. [323203]

Mr. Timms: Debt recovery decisions are made on the basis of the specific facts of each case and the statutory framework within which HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) respectively operates.

In my statement to the House on 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 141WS, I set out details of the collaboration between HMRC and DWP on debt recovery. This collaboration has not yet identified alignment on hardship as a priority area for supporting the Departments' debt recovery objectives.

Tax Allowances: Part-time Employment

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals for a pilot scheme to implement an earnings disregard of £50 a week to assist people who are on benefits to take jobs of 16 or fewer hours a week. [322239]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

Within the benefits system, some groups can already earn £50 per week or more without any loss of benefit. These include people on employment and support allowance and incapacity benefit who have access to a permitted work rule which allows them to earn up to £93.

The progression to work pathfinders will operate in four Jobcentre Plus districts. They will come into effect from the date of claim for people claiming after 25 October 2010 and from April 2011 for people already on benefit at that date.

The pathfinders will build on the existing regime for lone parents of regular work-focused interviews and action planning and require customers to undertake work-related activities which will aim to move them closer to the labour market and, ultimately, into work, when they become ready to do so. A £50 financial incentive/disregard was announced during the passage of the Welfare Reform Bill.

The Government believe that we should improve work incentives for lone parents and intend to include an enhanced earnings disregard for them in the pathfinders. We are currently considering the level and structure of this disregard with a view to providing the most effective incentive for lone parents to try out work.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Government has to reduce the frequency of inspections carried out under the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [322470]

Meg Hillier: There are no plans to reduce the frequency of inspections carried out under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. In line with the Government's principles for Better Regulation, inspections are performed with a frequency based upon a risk assessment of each designated establishment. The risks are regularly reviewed by the local inspector in the light of fresh information such that the frequency of inspections to each establishment may be altered at any time to match the perceived risk. Overall, it is not expected that this will result in a significant change in the total number of inspections carried out by an inspector over the course of a year.

Animal Welfare: EC Action

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects his Department's response to its consultation on EU proposals for a new Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes to be published. [322469]

Meg Hillier: We expect the response to the consultation on the proposals for the revision of EC Directive 86/609 to be published by early April 2010.

Asylum: Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 630W, on asylum: housing, how many asylum seekers are housed in dwellings that were formerly vacant social housing. [323198]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency contracts with a number of local authorities for the provision of accommodation for eligible asylum seekers. The agency's contracts with local authorities do not stipulate what type of housing they use to fulfil their contractual requirements.

British Nationality

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for British nationality through naturalisation were made in each of the last three years. [322988]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the number of naturalisation applications that were made in the last three years.

Applications for naturalisation as a British citizen received, 2007-09

	Case type	Number of persons
2007	Naturalisation	113,595
2008	Naturalisation	115,890
2009	Naturalisation	[1]142,615

[1] Provisional figures. *Note:* Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which British nationality application forms may be requested over the telephone. [322989]

Mr. Woolas: Of the 16 application forms used for British nationality only forms AN and MN1 may currently be requested by telephone. The others are available by downloading from the UK Border Agency website.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications by children for British nationality were made in each of the last three years. [322990]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the current number of children applying for British nationality made in the last three years.

Minor applications for British citizenship received 2007-09

	Case type	Number of persons
2007	Minor children	38,340
2008	Minor children	36,565
2009[1]	Minor children	47,385

[1] Provisional figures.

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Minor children are all children under 18 years old.

The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people requested nationality application forms by telephone in each of the last three years. [322991]

Mr. Woolas: There are no records of the number of people requesting nationality application forms by telephone. The number of calls answered in response to requests for application forms were:

	Number
April 2007-March 2008	114,198
April 2008-March 2009	108,447
April 2009-to date	95,281

The information has been provided from local management information and is not National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the decision was taken not to supply hard copies of British nationality application forms AN and MN1 and related guidance notes to people requesting them on the telephone; and what the reasons were for the decision. [322993]

Mr. Woolas: The decision not to continue to supply hard copies of nationality forms AN and MN1 was taken on 12 February 2010. Most nationality forms are already available only by downloading from the UK Border Agency website and work is underway towards online application. Most applications are already made on forms accessed from the website. Discontinuing the supply of hardcopy forms AN and MN1 will save the agency in excess of £500,000 per annum.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 895W, on empty property, what *(a)* residential and *(b)* business properties his Department (i) owns and (ii) rents overseas; in which locations; and what the cost of those properties was to his Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [320904]

Mr. Woolas: My Department including its executive agencies does not own any overseas property. The UK Border Agency rents residential and business properties on the continent for use by officials who operate from ports, terminals and office sites. Landlord and other costs of these properties from available information for 2008-09 were £3.6 million.

The UK Border Agency also operates from Foreign and Commonwealth Office embassies and high commissions around the world for which my Department paid the FCO £16.2 million in 2008-09 for property and related services, excluding non-cash cost of capital and depreciation.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320620]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has clear policies and procedures in place for managing unsatisfactory performance and for investigating misconduct under a revised disciplinary policy introduced on 6 April 2009. These may result in dismissal of an individual. These policies are compliant with employment legislation and any dismissal will follow the published procedures which are available to all staff.

The following table sets out information held in relation to formal disciplinary procedures that have been recorded centrally in the Home Office (excluding its agencies) in each of the last five years.

Table 1: Formal disciplinary procedures within Home Office HQ

	Number of procedures	Number of staff subject to formal disciplinary procedure[4]	Percentage of HQ staff subject to formal procedures	Number of staff where procedure resulted in dismissal	Percentage of staff dismissed as a proportion of those subject to disciplinary procedures that were proven
2005-06	6	6	[2]	[4]	[4]
2006-07	9	9	[2]	5	55.6
2007-08	12	12	0.4	6	50.0
2008-09	7	7	0.2	[4]	[4]
2009-10[1]	9	9	[3]	[4]	[4]

[1] Figures to 28 February 2010.
[2] In 2005-06 and 2006-07 total staffing figures for the Home Office were combined to include Home Office HQ and the now UK Border Agency so a percentage cannot be provided.
[3] The ONS Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES) for 2010 is due for completion by June 2010 so a percentage cannot be provided.
[4] Where less than five members of staff were dismissed further information is withheld on confidentiality grounds.
Notes.
1. Civil service staffing statistics are collated by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) from Annual Civil Service Employment Surveys (ACSES). To calculate the percentage figures of HQ staff subject to formal procedures, we have used the ACSES return for 2008 and the latest ACSES report available for 2009.
2. Where a member of staff was subject to disciplinary procedures that covered two financial years we have included them in the year the final disciplinary penalty was administered.
3. The table excludes cases where procedures have been initiated but not yet concluded and cases where the case was withdrawn or not proven, or there was no case to answer.
4. Where a member of staff has been involved in several stages of the formal disciplinary procedures we have counted this as one procedure.

The Information relating to formal disciplinary procedures contained in this answer is drawn from centrally held records within Home Office HR which are populated with information provided by Line Managers and Human Resource Advisers. While every effort is made to ensure that the information provided by the business is input in a timely manner, some records are added retrospectively.

We are unable to provide details of when each procedure was (i) initiated and (ii) completed or how much time on average was taken to complete each procedure as full details of this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

We are unable to provide information in relation to capability procedures (which we have interpreted as formal unsatisfactory performance procedures) as there were fewer than five procedures in each year. Further information is therefore withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department and its non-departmental bodies are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323064]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department including its NDPBs follows guidance issued by DEFRA's Public Sector Food Procurement initiative on procuring meat and dairy products. The guidance shows how the Department can specify higher animal welfare standards, including farm assurance schemes and higher level schemes such as the RSPCA's Freedom Foods Standard.

The Department's regional facilities management contracts provide for a range of services including catering and the contracts specify that the Contractor complies with Government guidance on sustainable food and farming in delivering the contract.

Departmental ICT

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which external IT contractors his Department has contracts with a monetary value of over £1 million. [320883]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department manages its supplier base in line with public and private sector best practice, including maintaining up to date records on spend by supplier. The Home Office and UKBA have current IT contracts in place with 10 IT contractors with a monetary value of over £1 million. The list of contractors is as follows:

Home Office and UKBA IT suppliers

Atos Origin
CSC
Fujitsu
Hewlett Packard
IBM
Morse
Raytheon
Savvis
Serco
Specialist Computer Centres

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320544]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is as follows:

(a) No Home Office Ministers have attended coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months.

(b) There is no central mechanism for recording coaching in a foreign language for Home Office staff; to gather this information would incur a disproportionate cost. Where there is a business need, particularly for staff involved in EU and international business, language training is available and paid for out of local training budgets.

Departmental Location

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on the relocation of staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [321427]

Mr. Woolas: For the period for which information is available (July 2007 onwards), no staff from the Home Department (excluding its agencies) have been located in *(a)* Essex or *(b)* Castle Point constituency. As a consequence, the Department has not incurred any expenditure on the relocation of staff posts from these locations.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 625W, on ministerial policy advisers, what activities the special envoy on youth violence and knife crime has undertaken to date. [323648]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I can confirm the following activities undertaken by Richard Taylor, the special envoy on youth violence and knife crime.

Date	*Activity*
18 May 2009	School visit to Bexleyheath School
19 May 2009	Meeting at Charlton Football ground re Youth Violence
21 May 2009	Attendance at Ark Theatre to see Boy X production
1 June 2009	Series of Radio Interviews regarding the judicial system and perpetrators of gun and knife crime
5 June 2009	Attendance at South London Press
6 June 2009	Attendance at 4 Women 2 Women Conference
8 June 2009	School visit to La Retraite School
9 June 2009	School visit to Robert Browning School
10 June 2009	Meeting with News of the World
18-19 June 2009	Attendance at Violence and Gang Culture Conference in Leeds
30 June-2 July 2009	LGA Annual Group Conference
3 July 2009	Interview with ITV Exploring Knife Crime
7 July 2009	Attendance at Knife Crime Conference in Leeds
8 July 2009	School visit to St Michaels School
21 July 2009	Meeting with the Prime Minister, Home Secretary, Families United and other victim's families affected by serious youth violence
22 September 2009	Silence The Violence coalition meeting with the Home Secretary
20 October 2009	Private screening of the film 'One Day'
28 October 2009	Home Office Roundtable on Guns, Gangs and Knives
9 December 2009	Meeting with Jaee Samant, Home Office
8 January 2010	Attendance at the Youth Justice Board Serious Youth Violence Forum
8 January 2010	Interview with Radio France International for piece on Knife Crime and Gangs in London
14 January 2010	Meeting with Louise Casey, Home Office
27 January 2010	Launch of the National Victims Service at the Royal Society of Arts by Jack Straw, Justice Secretary
28 January 2010	Meeting with Jack Straw, Justice Secretary with other members of Families United
10 February 2010	Meeting with Jack Straw, Justice Secretary to discuss prisoners access to Facebook
11 February 2010	Meeting with Spirit of London Young Advisors to discuss serious youth violence
12 February 2010	Meeting with Ron Belgrave, London Community Safety Lead, Greater London Authority
13 February 2010	Attendance at Millwall Football Club anti-knife crime 'It Doesn't Have To Happen' event
15 February 2010	Attendance at Home Office Community Fund Event, London
15 February 2010	Roundtable meeting with Vernon Coaker, Minister of State for Schools and Learners in the Department of Children, Schools and Families and other members of Families United
23 February 2010	Attendance at Mothers Against Murder and Aggression Annual Conference, London
26 February 2010	Attendance at Home Office Community Fund Event, Leeds
1 March 2010	Attendance at private screening of 'Fear Factory' film, Leicester Square
4 March 2010	Attendance at Silence the Violence Coalition meeting, London
11 March 2010	Attendance at the Department for Children Schools and Families Youth Taskforce Conference, London
15 March 2010	Attendance at the Department for Children Schools and Families, Families United and the Home Office 'Count Me In' anti-knife crime launch event, Lillian Baylis School, London
15 March 2010	Attendance at Gladesmore School, London as part of the Department for Children Schools and Families, Families United and the Home Office 'Count Me In' anti-knife crime campaign
16 March 2010	Attendance at Manchester Creative Academy, Manchester as part of the Department for Children Schools and Families, Families United and the Home Office 'Count Me In' anti-knife crime campaign
16 March 2010	Attendance at Burnage Media Arts College, Manchester as part of the Department for Children Schools and Families, Families United and the Home Office 'Count Me In' anti-knife crime campaign
17 March 2010	Attendance at Holte visual and performing arts college, Birmingham as part of the Department for Children Schools and Families, Families United and the Home Office 'Count Me In' anti-knife crime campaign
17 March 2010	Attendance at Washwood Heath, Birmingham Technology College as part of the Department for Children Schools and Families, Families United and the Home Office 'Count Me In' anti-knife crime campaign.
18 March 2010	Attendance at Alsop High School, Liverpool as part of the Department for Children Schools and Families, Families United and the Home Office 'Count Me In' anti-knife crime campaign
18 March 2010	Attendance at Calderstones, Liverpool as part of the Department for Children Schools and Families, Families United and the Home Office 'Count Me In' anti-knife crime campaign
19 March 2010	Attendance at West Bridgford Comprehensive School, Nottingham as part of the Department for Children Schools and Families, Families United and the Home Office 'Count Me In' anti-knife crime campaign
19 March 2010	Attendance at Bulwell, Nottingham as part of the Department for Children Schools and Families, Families United and the Home Office 'Count Me In' anti-knife crime campaign

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department and its agencies. [322566]

Mr. Woolas: The 2009 Home Office People Survey results are now available in the Library. These results are also available on the websites for Home Office and its agencies.

Detention Centres

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest period is for which *(a)* a child and *(b)* an adult has been detained by the UK Border Agency at an immigration removal centre in the last five years; and at which location in each case. [322669]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* The longest period for which a child has been detained by the UK Border Agency at an immigration removal centre in the last five years is 190 days. The child was detained at Yarl's Wood.

I should stress this particular case relates to a family held in 2005 and was in part due to several failed removal attempts following the family's disruptive behaviour at the point of removal. Since then the UK Border Agency has radicalised the way in which case working of families with children is managed. We now only ever detain families where they have refused to leave the UK voluntarily and their departure has to be enforced, all legal barriers have been concluded, they have a valid travel document and a flight has been booked in a few days. It is therefore our intention that children are only ever in detention for no more than a few days.

The longest period for which an adult has been detained by the UK Border Agency at an immigration removal centre in the last five years is not available. Information on children has been made available through the examination of individual cases, which would only be possible for adult detainees at disproportionate cost.

National Statistics on persons (including children) held in detention solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. This information is published in tables 9-13 of the "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom" bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

DNA: Databases

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people with profiles on the National DNA Database who had no further action taken in their case have been found guilty of a separate offence *(a)* since their profile was added to the database and *(b)* primarily as a result of their profile being added to the database; [315673]

(2) how many people with a profile on the National DNA Database who were found not guilty in court have since been convicted in respect of a separate offence primarily as a result of their profile being on the database. [315674]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 4 February 2010]:* The National DNA Database (NDNAD) holds information to allow DNA found at crime scenes to be matched with profiles taken from known individuals, and to pass reports of matches to the police for further investigation. The NDNAD does not hold information on the arrest history of profiled individuals, subsequent charges or details of convictions. The specific information sought is therefore not available centrally.

Drugs: Colombia

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to monitor the level of drug trafficking in Colombia. [323349]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* We work very closely with the Colombian authorities in tackling the cocaine trade. Our work involves intelligence sharing and promoting best practice amongst law enforcement partners. With our support, our Colombian partners continue to have significant success in arresting high profile traffickers, dismantling organised crime networks, and in seizing cocaine destined for the UK.

Electronic Warfare

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the likely level of resilience of critical infrastructure to the effects of an electromagnetic pulse. [324043]

Mr. Hanson: The Government's Cyber Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, published alongside and reflected in the National Security Strategy update of June 2009, considers a number of methods of cyber attack, including those that generate high levels of radio frequency power that can damage or disrupt unprotected electronics. It also outlines the new governance structures and workstreams which are now building on existing work to take forward the Government's plan for reducing the impact on and vulnerability of the UK's interests from cyber attacks.

The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) provides advice on electronic or cyber protective security measures to the businesses and organisations that comprise the UK's critical national infrastructure, including public utilities, companies and banks. CPNI also runs a CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) service which responds to reported attacks on private sector networks. In addition, CESG provides Government Departments with advice and guidance on how to protect against, detect and mitigate various types of cyber attack.

Businesses and organisations in the critical national infrastructure are encouraged to implement appropriate protective measures and develop contingency plans to help ensure business continuity.

It would not be in the interests of national security to publish information about specific vulnerabilities, assessments or protective measures relating to electromagnetic pulse attack.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the likelihood of a *(a)* natural and *(b)* deliberately initiated electromagnetic pulse affecting critical infrastructure; and what systems are in place to mitigate the effects of such an event. [324045]

Mr. Hanson: The Government's Cyber Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, published alongside and reflected in the National Security Strategy update of June 2009, considers a number of methods of cyber attack, including those that generate high levels of radio frequency power that can damage or disrupt unprotected electronics. It

also outlines the new governance structures and workstreams which are now building on existing work to take forward the Government's plan for reducing the impact on and vulnerability of the UK's interests from cyber attacks.

The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) provides advice on electronic or cyber protective security measures to the businesses and organisations that comprise the UK's critical national infrastructure, including public utilities, companies and banks. CPNI also runs a CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) service which responds to reported attacks on private sector networks. In addition, CESG provides Government Departments with advice and guidance on how to protect against, detect and mitigate various types of cyber attack.

It would not be in the interests of national security to publish information about specific vulnerabilities, assessments or protective measures relating to electromagnetic pulse attack.

Entry Clearances: Biometrics

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many biometric enrolment centres are in operation; where they are located; how many applications they are expected to process in the next 12 months; and how many people they could each process and provide with identity cards each year if working at maximum capacity. [318707]

Alan Johnson: The Home Office has opened a total of 34 biometric enrolment offices across the UK. These are operational in the following places:

Enrolment offices

Aberdeen
Battersea
Beckenham
Beeston
Belfast
Blackburn
Bracknell
Brighton
Cambridge
Camden
Cardiff
Central Manchester
Croydon
Derby
Durham
Earls Court
Elephant and Castle
Glasgow
Kingstanding—Birmingham
Liverpool (2)
London
London City Airport
Middleton—Manchester
Manchester City Airport
Old Street—London EC1
Oxford
Queensway—Birmingham
Redditch
Romsey
Sheffield
Solihull
South Shields
Stamford

Anticipated capacity for enrolment for identity cards is 650,000 to 700,000 per annum.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications were turned away from the Islamabad high commission under the pre-sift process before the formal application had been considered in each of the last five years. [323014]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* We ceased to operate a "pre-sift" procedure at our Visa Sections overseas by 2001-02. Hitherto, an entry clearance officer would carry out an initial assessment of a visa application before it was formally lodged and advise the applicant if it was unlikely to be successful. The applicant would then decide whether or not to proceed.

Identity Cards

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been issued with identity cards by the Identity and Passport Service on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [323935]

Meg Hillier: Up to and including 21 March 2010, over 8,900 people have applied for an identity card. For the same period, IPS has issued over 8,000 identity cards.

Illegal Immigrants: Car Washes

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil penalties were issued by the UK Border Agency to hand car wash operators for employing illegal workers in 2009. [323973]

Mr. Woolas: A total of 126 notices of liability for a civil penalty were issued by the UK Border Agency to hand car wash operators for employing illegal workers during the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009.

These data are derived from local management information and are not quality assured under National Statistics protocols. They should therefore be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Immigrants: Detainees

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions children detained at immigration removal centres have been held separately from their parents for a period of more than *(a)* 12 and *(b)* 24 hours in the latest period for which figures are available. [322797]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* There has been one occasion when a child was held separately from its parent for more than 12 hours. This was when a single parent needed to attend hospital for treatment. During this time, the child was looked after by social services professionals.

There have been no occasions when a child was held separately from its parent for more than 24 hours.

These data are taken from local management information for the period October 2009 to the present date. They have not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and are therefore subject to change and should be treated as provisional.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what independent checks there are on the welfare of children detained at immigration removal centres. [322798]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* The UK Border Agency takes the health and emotional wellbeing of those in its care very seriously. This is particularly true of children who are regrettably detained—with their parents—pending their removal after they refuse to leave the UK voluntarily. We introduced a new duty in November 2009 contained in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, which requires the agency to protect and promote the welfare of children. The Office of the Children's Champion, which includes professional advisers, is responsible for challenging the agency to ensure it meets its obligations, and they provide constant advice and support to those responsible for detention and escorting matters.

Children can only be held in three immigration removal centres. Tinsley house currently holds families for 24 hours and Dungavel house for up to three days.

Those families who will be held for longer periods are taken to Yarl's Wood, as are those families in Scotland whose flights are departing from London.

Prior to detention, the agency conducts a formal assessment of each child to identify any particular medical; safeguarding or welfare needs in order to make the necessary arrangements to support them while in detention. On site independent social workers contribute to this initial assessment.

Once in detention the social workers continue to make regular weekly welfare checks on each individual child throughout the entire period of detention. In addition to these regular welfare checks, the independent social workers carry out a formal welfare needs assessment between 14-21 days of detention for any child whose detention extends beyond 28 days. A copy of the completed assessment is submitted to the head of Bedford Children's Services; thereby ensuring independent oversight is maintained for the welfare assessments of children held in detention.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance is available for individuals detained at UK Border Agency immigration removal centres who are suspected to be at risk of suicide. [322799]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* A comprehensive self-harm reduction strategy is in place at Immigration Removal Centres to support detainees who are deemed to be at risk of suicide or self-harm. Our procedures, called Assessment Care in Detention and Teamwork (ACDT), provide an holistic approach to suicide and self harm prevention within the broader context of decency, safety, and the concept of a healthy centre. It also brings existing policy in line with similar changes implemented by the Ministry of Justice.

The ACDT process starts as soon as an individual has been identified as being at risk. It involves an initial risk assessment and assessment interview conducted by specially trained individuals. A specific care map tailored to the issues faced by the individual is produced to ensure provision of multi-disciplinary support, including input from both health care professionals and staff at the centre. The ACDT document is reviewed at regular intervals to ensure the correct support is provided while the individual is thought to be at risk.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are made in respect of the *(a)* personal possessions, *(b)* vehicles and *(c)* bank accounts of detainees following (i) detention at an immigration removal centre and (ii) deportation. [322800]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* All immigration removal centres offer welfare services which are delivered by a mixture of dedicated teams and individual members of staff.

Staff help detainees to make preparations for their departure from the United Kingdom, including providing advice about how to tie up their affairs before their departure. They cannot, however, make such arrangements such as shipping property home.

Detainees are required to limit their property in Immigration Removal Centres to 20 kilograms as this is the restriction placed upon them by airlines.

National Bullying Helpline

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contact his Department has had with the National Bullying Helpline since 2004; and whether his Department has made any payments to *(a)* the National Bullying Helpline and *(b)* HR and Diversity Management Ltd. in that period. [320133]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office (excluding its agencies) has had no contact with the National Bullying Helpline; and has not made any payments *(a)* the National Bullying Helpline and *(b)* HR and Diversity Management Ltd. since 2004.

Powers of Entry

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which powers of entry have been subject to a liberty test since October 2007. [323806]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 23 March 2010]:* I refer the hon. and learned Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 28 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1046-48W.

Raja Petra Kamarudin

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports his Department has received on allegations that Mr. Raja Petra Kamarudin may be in exile in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [323620]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

Our high commission in Kuala Lumpur has reported on speculation in Malaysia that Raja Petra Kamarudin may be in the United Kingdom. We are not in a position to comment on or to confirm such speculation.

Smuggling: Birds

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many birds in how many seizures were seized by HM Revenue and Customs under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in each year since 2000. [322551]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides data, taken from HM Revenue and Customs central records, relating to birds seized during financial years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

	Birds	
	Number seized	*Number of seizures*
2005-06	310	6
2006-07	3	3
2007-08	0	0
2008-09	9	2

These seizures were made using customs enforcement powers, in relation to live animals listed as endangered species under Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97, on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora. This regulation implements the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), within the EU. The UK Border Agency now has responsibility for enforcement of illegal imports and exports under this regulation.

Information on all CITES seizures made by the former HM Customs and Excise prior to 2005, is available on the DEFRA website, at the following link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/wildlife/trade-crime/cites/action-uk.htm#enforcement

UK Border Agency

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency received in fees for applications in each of the last five years. [322335]

Mr. Woolas: The United Kingdom Border Agency and its predecessor bodies received the following sums in fees for applications in each of the last five fiscal years:

					£000
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Immigration group in-country application income	115,310	204,875	212,781	299,738	320,953
International group out-country visa application income[1]	130,648	167,362	190,499	273,577	295,464

[1] Visa applications income 2004-09 is shown for information only: it was not part of UKBA until the 1 April 2009.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency expects to reply to the email from the hon. Member for Aylesbury dated 4 February 2010 on medical students applying for visas at the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries. [323268]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The United Kingdom Border Agency responded to the hon. Member for Aylesbury on 18 March 2010.

UK Border Agency: Stress

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of working days lost by UK Border Agency staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [322380]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* 8.8 per cent. of days lost to sickness absence were due to stress-related conditions for the period 1 March 2009 to 28 February 2010.

UK Border Agency: Travel

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials of each grade at the UK Border Agency are entitled to first-class travel; and if he will make a statement. [320802]

Mr. Woolas: Because the UK Border Agency's work is national and international in scope, it is necessary in some cases for staff to travel in order to facilitate that work. This is only undertaken when other forms of business interaction such as video or voice conferencing have been considered first. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the civil service management and ministerial codes and is approved in advance by a line manager. Over 90 per cent. of the work force of the UK Border Agency have no contractual entitlement to travel first class.

Senior executive officer grades (and equivalent) and above are entitled to travel first class where there is an operational need for them to travel on business.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 730W, which shows that 2,223 staff were employed in those grades as at October 2009.

Entitlement is not an indication as to the actual numbers who travelled. Information provided by the company which supplied UKBA with travel services for the period shows that, of the individuals who would have been contractually entitled to travel first class in

2009, less than 40 per cent. made use of any first class travel in 2009. The agency encourages officials to incur the lowest practicable cost.

The UK Border Agency is focused on driving down the cost of travel expenditure. In addition the Home Office has a travel contract that enables significant savings to be achieved compared with the standard price of UK rail travel.

UK Border Agency's War Crimes Unit

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people the UK Border Agency's War Crimes Unit has referred to the police in each year since 2004. [322689]

Mr. Woolas: According to internal management information the UKBA War Crimes Unit has referred 51 cases to the Metropolitan police since 2005. The breakdown is as follows:

	Number
2005	3
2006	11
2007	5
2008	6
2009	18
2010 (to end of February)	8

This figure is based on local management information and is not provided under National Statistics protocols.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people the UK Border Agency's War Crimes Unit has recommended for immigration action in each year since 2004. [322690]

Mr. Woolas: According to internal management information, as of February 2010, the UKBA War Crimes Unit has recommended refusal/exclusion in 513 cases. This could be in relation to refusal of citizenship, of leave to enter/remain, or exclusion from the Refugee Convention. The breakdown is as follows:

	Number
2004 and 2005	47
2006	54
2007	105
2008	144
2009	143
2010 (as of February)	20

This figure is based on local management information and is not provided under National Statistics protocols.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been screened by the UK Border Agency's War Crimes Unit in each year since 2004. [322691]

Mr. Woolas: As of February 2010 the UKBA War Crimes Unit has completed 3,490 case files. The total breaks down as follows:

	Number
2004 and 2005	448
2006	326
2007	600
2008	797
2009	1,152
2010 (to end of February)	167

The total will include some cases that have been referred more than once. This figure is based on local management information and is not provided under National Statistics protocols.

Vetting

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken to complete Criminal Records Bureau checks; what steps he is taking to reduce the time taken; and if he will make a statement. [321944]

Meg Hillier: The performance of the CRB is measured against a number of Published Service Standards (PSS) which include to issue 95 per cent. of Standard CRB checks within 10 days and 90 per cent. of Enhanced CRB checks within 28 days.

In the last period for which figures are available, January 2010, the number of days the CRB took on average to complete an enhanced check is 29.9 days. This figure includes the data for all Enhanced applications handled by the CRB; some applications are returned to the Registered Bodies or the applicant as data is missing and this figure includes the time on average these applications are out with the customer.

In recent months demand has significantly exceeded forecasts and as a result, some enhanced checks have taken longer to process as a result.

The CRB have been working with their delivery partners, including the police forces, to address the problems associated with delays. The CRB have set up an improvement plan with those forces that have been having problems meeting the demand for certificates. This is aimed at maintaining a steady output of applications on the system while also reducing the number of aged cases; those which have taken longer than 25 days to process.

Work Permits: Africa

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued for senior carers from each country in Africa in each of the last 15 years. [322002]

Mr. Woolas: The work permit arrangements closed for new applications on 26 November 2008 and were replaced by the points based system.

The number of work permits approved for countries in Africa between 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2009 are shown in the table. We do not hold accurate information on any work permit applications made prior to the year 2000.

Nationality	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Cameroon	[1]	[1]	[2]	15	75	45	30	30	10	[2]	210
Ethiopia	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[2]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[2]
Gambia	[1]	[1]	[1]	[2]	[1]	[1]	[2]	[1]	[1]	[1]	5
Ghana	[2]	[2]	5	60	65	50	50	25	20	5	280
Kenya	[1]	[1]	[2]	5	10	15	5	5	10	[1]	55
Lesotho	[1]	[1]	[1]	[2]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[2]
Libya	[1]	[2]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[2]
Malawi	[1]	[1]	[2]	[2]	5	[2]	[2]	[1]	[2]	5	15
Mauritius	[1]	[2]	5	5	5	5	10	[2]	[2]	[1]	30
Morocco	[1]	[1]	[2]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[2]
Namibia	[1]	[1]	[1]	5	5	5	5	[1]	[2]	[1]	15
Nigeria	[1]	[1]	5	10	20	15	5	[2]	[2]	[1]	55
Seychelles	[1]	[1]	[1]	[2]	[2]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[2]	[1]	5
Sierra Leone	[1]	[2]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[2]
Somalia	[1]	[1]	[2]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[2]
South Africa	[1]	35	290	320	235	145	95	50	40	10	1,220
Uganda	[1]	[1]	[1]	[2]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[2]	[1]	[1]	[2]
Zambia	[1]	[1]	35	75	195	105	145	15	35	[1]	605
Zimbabwe	[1]	[2]	10	40	20	10	10	[2]	[2]	[1]	95
Total	[2]	40	355	540	630	390	365	135	120	20	2,595

[1] Indicates zero
[2] Indicates one or two
Note:
Figures are rounded to nearest five

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. The data provided are for applications where the job title includes 'Senior Care', 'Senior Healthcare' or 'Senior Health Care'. They do not include applications made under the new points-based immigration system.

Young Offenders: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 170-1W, on young offenders: sentencing, how many *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 16, *(f)* 17, *(g)* 18 and *(h)* 19-year-olds who had previously been resident in a London borough and who had been convicted for non-violent crimes were given community sentences in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [323893]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The available information is provided in the table. Data for 2009 will be available when "Sentencing Statistics 2009" is published later this year.

Figures for those previously resident in a London borough are not available, as places of residence are not recorded on the court proceedings database. The table shows those sentenced in the London criminal justice areas.

The definition of non-violent offences are all those indictable offences not included in the offence type, 'Violence Against the Person'. Summary offences have not been included as they are not categorised into violent or non-violent offences.

Number of persons sentenced to community sentences for non-violent indictable offences[1] by age in London criminal justice area, 2007-08

Age	2007	2008
12	126	78
13	345	311
14	780	717
15	1,181	1,037
16	1,437	1,311
17	1,391	1,423
18	578	498
19	468	445

[1] This includes all indictable offences not included in the Violence against the person offence type. Summary offences have not been included as they are not categorised into violent or non-violent offences.
Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
3. Sentences at the Crown Court are categorised according to the police force that prosecuted the offence including those sentences that may be given at a court outside the prosecuting police force's area. The statistics are presented by criminal justice area. Police force areas correspond to criminal justice areas except for the Metropolitan and City of London Police, which are combined to form the London criminal justice area. Prosecutions brought by agencies other than the police are categorised according to the criminal justice area of the sentencing court. In the case of sentences at magistrates courts, a change was made to the categorisation by area as part of the rollout of the Libra case management system in magistrates courts during 2008. Sentences given at courts using the Libra system are categorised according to the criminal justice area of the court while sentences given at courts not yet using the Libra system are categorised in the same way as at the Crown Court. By the end of 2006, all magistrates courts were using Libra. This change will have almost no impact on the categorisation by area; only around 0.01 per cent. of sentences at magistrates courts could have been affected in 2007 and 2008. Police forces do not prosecute minor offences (those that are sentenced at magistrates courts) in courts outside their areas.
Source:
Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children under the age of 16 years were *(a)* put up for compulsory

adoption, *(b)* put in the care of foster parents and *(c)* taken into local authority care in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [319792]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 3 March 2010]:* Information has been placed in the House Libraries.

The figure for the number of children placed for adoption with a placement order will include some children whose parents have given consent for them to be placed for adoption.

Apprentices

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people of each sex have participated in apprenticeships of each type since 2000. [322635]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows apprenticeship starts by gender and level, for learners aged under 19 at the start of their programme. Figures are given for 2003/04 onwards, the earliest year for which comparable data are available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by gender and level for under 19-year-olds, 2003/04 to 2008/09

	Female			Male			Total		
	Apprenticeship (Level 2)	*Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)*	*Total female*	*Apprenticeship (Level 2)*	*Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)*	*Total male*	*Apprenticeship (Level 2)*	*Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)*	*Grand total*
2003/04	41,400	6,600	48,000	41,600	18,600	60,200	83,000	25,200	108,300
2004/05	41,700	7,000	48,600	46,000	18,900	64,900	87,600	25,900	113,500
2005/06	37,200	6,600	43,800	39,900	15,800	55,700	77,100	22,400	99,500
2006/07	37,500	7,500	45,000	43,300	17,400	60,600	80,800	24,800	105,600
2007/08	36,700	7,500	44,200	45,300	18,100	63,400	82,000	25,500	107,600
2008/09	35,400	7,800	43,200	38,800	17,400	56,200	74,200	25,200	99,400

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures are based on age at start of programme. Figures include learners aged 16-18 years old and a small number of under 16s.
3. Figures for Advanced Apprenticeships include a small number of Higher Level Apprenticeships.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of Apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 454W, on the Building Schools for the Future programme, how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the local authority and *(c)* the school contributed to the cost of each project; and what the (i) capital, (ii) administration, (iii) consultancy, (iv) procurement, (v) ICT, (vi) design and (vii) operational cost was of each project. [322792]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Children: Day Care

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places have been created in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point since 1997. [318092]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of childcare places available in Essex local authority from 1997 to 2009 is shown in the following table. The information requested is not available by parliamentary constituency.

Table 1: Number[1] of childcare places[2] for children under eight years of age position at 31 March each year, 1997-2009

	Essex
1997	34,900
1998	34,200
1999	27,200
2000	27,900
2001	28,800
2002	[3]
2003	32,500
2004	33,800
2005	34,900
2006	36,600
2007	36,800
2008	36,100
2009[4]	32,400

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
[2] 1997-2001—Data Source: Children's Daycare Facilities survey—total includes day nurseries, playgroups and pre-schools, childminders, out of school clubs, and holiday schemes. 2003-08—Data Source: Ofsted—total includes full daycare, sessional daycare, childminders, out of school clubs, and creche daycare. 2009—Data Source: Ofsted—total includes childminders, childcare on non-domestic premises, childcare on domestic premises and home child carer.
[3] Data were not collected for 2002 during the transfer of responsibility to Ofsted.
[4] Figures included are revised figures published by Ofsted in September 2009. Data not collected due to transfer of responsibility from LAs to Ofsted. Local authorities were responsible for the registration and inspection of children's day care facilities from 1997 to 2001. Responsibility transferred to Ofsted from 2003 and correspondingly, the categories of childcare changed from day nurseries, playgroups and pre-schools, childminders, out of school clubs and holiday schemes to full and sessional daycare, childminders, out of school clubs, and creche daycare. Therefore, data from 2003 are not directly comparable with data prior to 2002.

Due to changes in legislation, Ofsted have changed the way they publish statistics on registered childcare

providers and places. From 1 September 2008, Ofsted started to record providers in line with new legal requirements using the categories of childminders, childcare on domestic premises, and childcare on non-domestic premises. This change means that the total numbers of providers and places (excluding childminding) shown in its returns up to and including August 2008 and from December 2008 onwards (the last under the old system, and the first under the new system) are not directly comparable.

Children: Diabetes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to schools on the care requirements of children with diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [323121]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We encourage schools to support children with long-term medical conditions such as diabetes. The DCSF and DH have issued joint guidance: 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings' to support schools in this regard.

This Department is committed to revising this guidance as announced in the Child Health Strategy. We are currently updating the guidance so that it reflects the very latest advances in medical support and promotes best practice. Key stakeholders, including Diabetes UK, have provided material for the revised version.

Class Sizes: Primary Education

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average staff to pupil ratio in primary schools in England was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [322048]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is published in table 17 of the Statistical First Release (SFR), 'School Workforce in England (including local authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)', published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables1to18v2.xls

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department and its non-departmental bodies are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323066]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's catering contract was developed to incorporate the principles of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative and the Department's contractor, Autograph, have a policy of supporting Fairtrade, Marine Stewardship, RSPCA Freedom Food and Red Tractor in addition to sourcing food locally wherever possible and where traceability allows.

As a company, Autograph procure meat, fruit and vegetables nationally at just over 50 per cent. of the total available domestically allocated spend and all dairy produce is of domestic provenance.

Autograph are committed to supporting and promoting the use of British agriculture, when in season and quality/value permit. They have recently been awarded Red Tractor Assured Food Standards accreditation for the four DCSF head office sites.

I am unable to provide detail for each of the non-departmental public bodies.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's budget for publicity and advertising was in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [316570]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's spend on advertising in 2008/09 was £13,891,106, as outlined in the following table. The figures include media spend but do not include production and fees.

Campaign title	*Spend (£)*
Diplomas	2,432,819
STEM	1,745,192
Who Do We Think We Are	2,433
National Year of Reading	259,682
Teenage Pregnancy	1,527,527
MFL	1,719,247
STEM—Sugar Magazine Advertorial	8,358
Summer Holidays Affordable Childcare	202,543
Guardian Education Advertorial	11,040
DCSF—Early Years Foundation	23,542
DCSF Media Only Campaigns	349,768
14-19 Reform Campaign	941,597
Diploma Employer Engagement	602,300
Alcohol and Young People Campaign	1,160,103
Diplomas March Campaign	1,885,861
ParentLine March Campaign	41,535
Frank 2008/09	977,559
Total	13,891,106

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its agencies spent on external recruitment consultants in the last 12 months. [315287]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Over the 12-month period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009, DCSF spent £115,000 (including VAT) on external recruitment consultants for appointments into the Department.

DCSF only uses recruitment consultants when it provides value for money and for senior appointments operating under the rules of the Civil Service Commissioners.

The recruitment consultants employed for these purposes were all drawn from the Cabinet Office and Buying Solutions Framework agreements.

The Department has no agencies.

Faith Schools: Islam

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of children who are being educated at Muslim schools. [321279]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: There are currently 11 maintained Muslim schools (six primary schools and five secondary schools), all of which have opened since 1997, out of a total of 20,099 maintained schools. We are not currently aware of any proposals for new maintained Muslim schools which have been approved to open.

According to the January 2009 school census, there are 4,230 pupils being educated at the 11 maintained Muslim schools (1,933 at primary and 2,297 at secondary) and 16,543 pupils being educated at the 117 independent Muslim schools.

Free School Meals: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1173W, on free school meals: Leeds, how many of the 1,180 students eligible for free school meals as at January 2009 in Leeds North West constituency regularly received school meals during that period. [322813]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Information on how regularly pupils take school meals is not available. The available information on the numbers of children taking free school meals on the day of the census is shown in the table, together with the numbers of children known to be eligible for free school meals.

Maintained nursery, primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1, 2] schools: School meal arrangements, as at January 2009, Leeds, North-West constituency

	Number of pupils[3]	*Number of pupils eligible for free school meals[3, 4]*	*Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals*	*Number of pupils taking free school meals[5]*	*Percentage taking free school meals*
Nursery and primary schools[1]	4,620	520	11.3	440	9.5
State funded secondary schools[1, 2]	5,200	660	12.7	440	8.5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations. Also includes post-16 pupils.
[4] Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons e.g. through preference or through non-attendance on the day. Pupils are counted as eligible only if they meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.
[5] Number of pupils taking school meals on the day of the census.
Note: Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source: School Census.

GCSE

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils from National Challenge schools who achieved at least five grades A* to C at GCSE achieved one or more such grade in business studies, music technology, child development, hairdressing, construction, health and social care, sociology, media, travel and tourism, performing arts and hospitality and catering in each of the last five years. [319685]

Mr. Coaker: To answer this would go over the disproportionate cost threshold.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department paid to the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years; how much it has spent on such payments in 2009-10; and what proportion of such payments was made in respect of the Government Car Service. [316424]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) was created as a result of the machinery of government changes in June 2007. Prior to June 2007, it was Department for Education and Skills (DfES). A service level agreement between DSCF and Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) started in May 2006 and the spend figures from that date are shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Spend (£)*
April 2009 to January 2010	158,936
2008-09	74,104
2007-08	146,092
2006-07	51,563

The spend figure for 2007-08 shows a larger spend because this included payments made by DCSF on behalf of DCSF, Jobcentre Plus and DWP. The spend figure for the current financial year includes an additional service made for a mail service. Payments from 2006 to May 2009 relate solely to the Government Car Service (GCS). From June 2009, 48 per cent. of the spend relates to GCS.

Costs to Departments of ministerial cars are reported annually to Parliament by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport through written ministerial statement and are available in the Libraries of the House.

Learning Disability

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment has been made of the level of support and resources specialist institutions will require for administering the provision of learning for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [323271]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The budget for placements including support and resources secured for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities at independent specialist providers was £237 million in 2009-10 and this has increased by 12.7 per cent. in 2010 -11 to £267 million.

Local authorities will work closely with the specialist institutions and the Young People's Learning Agency to ensure that learners receive the provision and support needed to meet individual need and that this represents value for money.

Primary Education: Standards

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools were found not to have been registered with Ofsted in each of the last three years. [323343]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* Ofsted does not register schools other than Early Years settings. Independent schools must register with this Department. While the Department is sometimes notified of independent schools operating without registration and also holds information about registration applications currently being processed, our records do not contain age ranges. The Department does not hold historic information about unregistered schools in a single place, and extracting this information from paper files could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Pupils: Clothing

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of schoolchildren who regularly wear the kirpan on school premises; [317004]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the wearing of the kirpan by schoolchildren. [317005]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* The Department has made no estimate of the number of children who regularly wear the kirpan on school premises; this information is not collected by schools. We have received representations concerning a case involving a Barnet school last year; it is for individual governing bodies to make their own policies on the carrying of the kirpan, taking account of pupil safety and religious practice. Because of concerns arising from this case, we are currently discussing issues around the wearing of the kirpan with other interested Government Departments, the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Sikh community, with a view to issuing guidance in due course.

School Catchment Areas

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Schools Adjudicator has issued to local education authorities on the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to make checks that parents live in their declared school catchment areas; and if he will make a statement. [323974]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Neither the Department nor the Schools Adjudicator has issued any guidance on the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. The use of these powers is the responsibility of local authorities and we expect them to be used proportionately.

Schools: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools there were in the London Borough of Bexley in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [321057]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of maintained primary[1] and state funded secondary schools[1,2], 1997 and 2009—Coverage: Bexley

	1997	2009
Primary	64	58
Secondary	16	16

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
Source:
School Census

Teachers TV: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the budget of Teachers TV was in the latest year for which figures are available. [321203]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In the 10-month period from 1 June 2008 to 31 March 2009 the Department allocated a budget to the Teachers TV contract of £10,194,616.

In the coming financial year Teachers TV will stop broadcasting as a TV channel and become an on-demand only service. This will release savings to the Department of £1,000,000 a year.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

10. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on proposals to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in Northern Ireland in 2012. [322983]

Paul Goggins: Planning for the Diamond Jubilee is still at an early stage. I expect my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to have discussions with my noble Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in due course.

Saville Inquiry

11. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the final report from the Saville inquiry to be published; and if he will make a statement. [322984]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Blaby (Mr. Robathan).

Security Situation

12. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent assessment is of the security situation in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [322985]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Members for Macclesfield (Sir Nicholas Winterton), and for Congleton (Ann Winterton) and the right hon. Member for Bracknell (Mr. Mackay).

Press and Communications Officers

13. **Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on employing press and communications officers in his Department in the financial year 2008-09. [322986]

Paul Goggins: The Department spent £579,343 on press officers during 2008-09.

Dissident Paramilitaries

14. **Dr. McCrea:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department is taking to counter the threat from dissident paramilitaries in Northern Ireland. [322987]

Mr. Woodward: The threat from dissident paramilitaries in Northern Ireland is of significant concern. Law enforcement agencies on both sides of the border are committed to combating dissident activity. We have ensured that the Chief Constable has access to additional resources both in this and the next financial year to meet the dissident threat.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323457]

Paul Goggins: No. Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months. [320403]

Paul Goggins: In the financial year 2008-09, the Department (including the Compensation Agency) spent £62,898 on first class travel by Ministers and £19,449 on first class travel by staff.

Information relating to the grades of staff travelling first class is not recorded centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code. All travel by civil servants in the Department and its agencies is undertaken in accordance with departmental policy.

In 2008-09, the Youth Justice Agency spent £65 on first class travel by staff at Grade A; the Northern Ireland Prison Service spent £134 on first class travel by staff in the SCS, and £517 by staff at Grade B1. Forensic Science Northern Ireland did not spend any money on first class travel.

These figures do not include the cost of first class travel paid for by individual members of staff and then reclaimed from the Department. This additional information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Prison Sentences

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have received an indeterminate sentence for public protection in each month since the introduction of such sentences. [322369]

Paul Goggins: Indeterminate custodial sentences are available for serious sexual or violent offences committed on or after 15 May 2008, where the court determines that the offender is dangerous and that an extended custodial sentence would not be adequate to protect the public from serious harm.

No indeterminate custodial sentences have been imposed so far.

Weapons

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent representations he has received on Loyalist decommissioning; and if he will make a statement. [322982]

Paul Goggins: I have received no recent representations about Loyalist decommissioning, but welcome the confirmation from the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning in its September and February reports that it has overseen the decommissioning of all arms under the control of the Ulster Volunteer Force and Red Hand Commando, the Ulster Defence Association, the South East Antrim UDA and the Shoukri paramilitary element.

I pay tribute to the tireless work of the IICD over the last 12 years in securing this progress.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much freight has been transported by water to the main Olympic site to date. [323338]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is committed to transporting 50 per cent. of materials to the Park, by weight, using sustainable methods, i.e. rail or water. The ODA is currently exceeding this target with almost 64 per cent. of material transported to the Park by sustainable methods.

Examples of deliveries to site include pile cages to the Aquatics Centre and pipes to the Olympic Stadium. Since October 2009, there has been one barge leaving the site each week removing waste and it is anticipated that this will increase to three barge movements per week as fit-out work on the venues increases.

The ODA continues to actively encourage its contractors to explore the use of the waterways to transport materials to the Park.

CABINET OFFICE

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1951W, on Government departments: buildings, what refurbishment works were undertaken across 70 Whitehall, Downing street and the Cabinet Office complex in the last 24 months. [322919]

Angela E. Smith: In relation to refurbishment works at Downing street I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 695W.

Refurbishment work at 70 Whitehall over the past 24 months has focused primarily on accessibility, sustainability and infrastructure improvements (including installing modernised IT and telecommunications infrastructure). The work has also involved upgrading the building fabric (including installation of additional insulation to external walls and roofs). In addition, cellular office space in the less historically sensitive parts of 70 Whitehall has been replaced as part of the refurbishment work to provide modernised open plan space, contributing to increasing capacity and efficiency.

Census

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 792W, on the Census, (1) after what time on Census night a guest will be deemed to be an overnight visitor; [322880]

(2) what imputation will be made in relation to overnight visitor data; and whether she has made an estimate of non-compliance with requirements relating to overnight visitors. [322909]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As the Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking, pursuant to the Answer of 8 February 2010, Official Report, column 792W, on the Census, after what time on Census night a guest will be deemed to be an overnight visitor. (322880); and pursuant to the Answer of 8 February 2010, Official Report, column 792W, on the Census, what imputation will be made in relation to overnight visitor data; and whether she has made an estimate of non-compliance with requirements relating to overnight visitors. (322909)

The Census (England and Wales) Order 2009 sets out the legal responsibilities for who must be included in a census return. Guidance printed on the questionnaires directs householders to include anyone who is not a usual resident and who is staying over night to be recorded as a visitor, it is left up to respondents to interpret what staying over night means in relation to their home, as this is a well recognised concept.

Recording information from visitors who are staying overnight at an address where they do not usually live will help to provide an accurate population count. Together with the new questions on second addresses this will avoid us undercounting or overcounting people, and help us to produce the most accurate figure of the population living in local areas.

ONS is only planning to impute data relating to over night visitors where a visitor has been recorded on a census questionnaire, but where there are missing data items. No estimate has been made of non-compliance with the requirement relating to overnight visitors.

Civil Servants: Pay

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 698W, on civil servants: pay, what the *(a)* job title, *(b)* department and *(c)* salary range was of each of the 43 jobs; and which of those jobs was advertised on the public part of the website. [322890]

Angela E. Smith: Tables detailing job titles, Departments and salary ranges will be placed in the Libraries of the House. The Cabinet Office is responsible for setting the referral point for each pay band in the senior civil service. For pay band 2 posts, this is £120,000 and for pay band 3, £140,000. Departments wanting to pay beyond these referral points must first obtain approval from the Cabinet Office. Where Departments wish to pay more than £150,000 they must obtain approval from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Civil Servants: Recruitment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 697W, on civil servants: pay, for what reasons the 32 jobs were advertised only on the internal part of the site. [322875]

Angela E. Smith: Departments and Executive agencies have delegated responsibility for recruitment, including the advertising of vacancies for all posts below director general level (top 200). The decision to advertise posts on the internal or external part of the civil service jobs site is determined by the recruiting Department or agency.

The Senior Leadership Committee advises the Cabinet Secretary on the mode of recruitment for top 200 posts.

Departmental Location

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 966W, on civil servants: location, what her Department's policy is on the outsourcing of work and jobs *(a)* overseas and *(b)* outside the European Economic Area. [318323]

Angela E. Smith: Within the Cabinet Office, none of our work is currently delivered through outsourced contracts to firms overseas, including those outside the European economic area.

Government Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which company was awarded the VIP air support contract for the Cabinet Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office with Prior Information Notice 2008/S 200-265590; on what date that contract notice

was dispatched; what estimate she has made of the monetary value of that contract; and for what period that contract has been let. [322885]

Angela E. Smith: The company awarded the contract is listed in the journal of the European Union, under reference (09/S 242-345855/EN). The award notice was issued on 14 December 2009, and is for a period of two years.

The costs for travel are listed in the annual report and accounts for the respective Departments.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Children

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the target waiting time is for children up to the age of 16 to be seen within when attending accident and emergency departments *(a)* on average in England and *(b)* at Northwick Park Hospital. [323470]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has set a national standard that all patients should not wait more than four hours in accident and emergency (A and E) departments from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge. A 98 per cent. minimum operating figure allows for the minority of patients who clinically need more than four hours in A and E. Trusts are able to set a more challenging waiting time target should they wish to do so.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for children aged up to the age of 16 years to be seen when they arrive at an accident and emergency department *(a)* in Leicester, *(b)* in the East Midlands, *(c)* in England and *(d)* at Northwick Park hospital. [323471]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not collected separately for Northwick Park hospital. However, information is available for North West London NHS Trust, which is the main health region containing Northwick Park hospital.

The following table sets out the mean time spent between arrival and departure in all types of accident and emergency (A and E) departments for England, Leicester City primary care trust, East Midlands strategic health authority and North West London NHS Trust in 2008-09, for patients aged 16 years or under.

Average duration to departure from A and E in minutes, for patients aged 16 or under, 2008-09

	Average duration to departure
Leicester City PCT	120.8
North West London NHS Trust	119.7
East Midland SHA	100.5
England	110.6

Source:
Experimental A and E Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Arthritis

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to provide nurses in primary care settings with training to (i) identify, (ii) diagnose and (iii) assess the care requirements of patients with rheumatoid arthritis; what recent representations he has received on those matters; and if he will make a statement. [323124]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Training for nurses in primary care is quite rightly the responsibility of employers. It is they who are best placed to understand local services and the training needs of their staff.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished episodes of care there were for patients with rheumatoid arthritis of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* age group resident in Southend in each year since 1997. [323125]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following tables show the number of finished consultant episodes with a mention of rheumatoid arthritis, by sex, age group and primary care trust (PCT) of residence.

The NHS Information Centre (IC) are unable to provide data for 2008-09 due to data quality issues with the data submitted whereby it cannot be determined which patients were resident in this area during this period.

Count of finished consultant episodes with mention of rheumatoid arthritis by sex, age group and South East Essex PCT of residence, 2006-07 to 2007-08

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Male				*Female*				*Total*
	0 to 44	*45 to 64*	*65 to 74*	*75+*	*0 to 44*	*45 to 64*	*65 to 74*	*75+*	
2007-08	48	170	114	160	112	241	240	343	1,428
2006-07	38	124	111	95	91	206	177	281	1,123

Count of finished consultant episodes with a mention of rheumatoid arthritis by sex, age group and Southend-on-Sea PCT of residence, 1997-98 to 2005-06

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Male				*Female*				*Total*
	0 to 44	*45 to 64*	*65 to 74*	*75+*	*0 to 44*	*45 to 64*	*65 to 74*	*75+*	
2005-06	24	51	53	46	27	78	70	163	512
2004-05	6	30	39	34	28	84	82	156	459
2003-04	*	38	*	25	24	98	48	90	345
2002-03	*	15	9	0	*	22	10	11	76

Count of finished consultant episodes with a mention of rheumatoid arthritis by sex, age group and Southend-on-Sea PCT of residence, 1997-98 to 2005-06

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Male				Female				Total
	0 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 74	75+	0 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 74	75+	
2001-02	*	*	8	*	*	9	7	9	47
2000-01	*	7	10	*	*	9	6	8	49
1999-2000	*	8	*	6	*	12	6	7	53
1998-99	*	16	21	11	*	24	28	48	157
1997-98	*	22	25	25	*	54	68	65	275

Count of finished consultant episodes with a mention of rheumatoid arthritis by sex, age group and Castle Point and Rochford PCT of residence, 1997-98 to 2005-06

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Male				Female				Total
	0 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 74	75+	0 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 74	75+	
2005-06	16	50	69	78	23	103	73	144	556
2004-05	16	54	39	43	20	107	99	119	497
2003-04	20	49	36	62	32	93	74	105	471
2002-03	10	15	10	*	*	18	7	7	69
2001-02	12	13	19	0	6	27	12	8	97
2000-01	*	17	15	10	*	25	6	7	87
1999-2000	*	7	*	*	*	26	11	*	59
1998-99	*	16	15	*	*	31	22	15	110
1997-98	8	24	23	15	15	52	60	39	236

Notes:

1. A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.
2. The number of episodes where this diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.
3. Data provided are for Southend-on-Sea PCT of residence (the PCT containing the patient's normal home address). This identifies patients who resided within Southend-on-Sea and were in hospital with a primary and/or secondary diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis. These patients may not have been treated in Southend-on-Sea.
4. From 1 October 2006, Southend-on-Sea PCT merged with Castle Point and Rochford PCT to create South East Essex PCT.
5. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so are no longer included in admitted patient HES data.
6. To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was still possible to identify numbers from the total an additional number (the next smallest) has been replaced.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to collect information on the number of newly diagnosed cases of rheumatoid arthritis; what recent representations he has received on the number of people with rheumatoid arthritis; and if he will make a statement. [323126]

Ann Keen: The Department currently has no plans to collect information on the number of newly diagnosed cases of rheumatoid arthritis.

There are various estimates of the incidence and prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis. These estimates suggest prevalence ranging between 400,000 and 580,000, and incidence between 12,000 and 26,000. For example, the National Audit Office report 'Services for People with Rheumatoid Arthritis' estimates that 580,000 adults have rheumatoid arthritis, with approximately 26,000 new diagnoses each year. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidance on the management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults, published in February 2009, estimates prevalence of 400,000 and annual incidence of 12,000.

The variation in estimates reflect the different data sources used to calculate incidence and prevalence.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ensure that GPs receive *(a)* pre-registration training and *(b)* continuing professional development training in the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis; and if he will take steps to encourage the Royal College of General Practitioners to offer additional support to GPs on the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis. [323221]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We recognise the importance of training in rheumatoid arthritis. The Government do not specify the content of the general practitioners (GPs) training curriculum. This is developed by the Royal College of General Practitioners. Responsibility for approval of the curriculum reset with the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB), which is the competent authority for postgraduate medical training in the United Kingdom. PMETB is an independent professional body.

From 1 April 2010, the content of postgraduate medical training will be the responsibility of the General Medical Council following a merge of the two organisations.

Post-registration training needs of GPs are determined by regulatory requirements and local national health

service priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the oral evidence given to the Public Accounts Committee by the Chief Executive of the NHS on 23 November 2009, what progress his Department is making in establishing whether there is a correlation between the amount spent per head of population on rheumatoid arthritis services and the quality of the provision of such services. [323317]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department is considering the findings and recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee in its report "Services for people with rheumatoid arthritis". The Department will respond formally to the recommendations made by the Committee in the form of a Treasury minute in due course.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by each primary care trust on rheumatoid arthritis services per head of population in each of the last two years. [323318]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available. Estimated expenditure data on musculoskeletal system problems, which includes rheumatoid arthritis, are available and have been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 765WA, on cancer drugs, which of the patient access schemes considered by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence *(a)* were and *(b)* were not implemented. [323833]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Where a patient access scheme is proposed by a manufacturer, and approved by the Department, in the context of a National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) appraisal, it must be available for local implementation when NICE recommends, or partially recommends, the use of the drug in question.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to assist specialist services for *(a)* myalgic encephalomyelitis and encephalopathy and *(b)* chronic fatigue syndrome; and if he will make a statement. [323128]

Gillian Merron: The Government made available £8.5 million funding for two years in 2004-05 and 2005-06 to set establish specialist centres and local multi-disciplinary teams to support the development of specialist chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) services and improve clinical care. Funding has now been added to primary care trust baseline allocations.

It is the responsibility of local health bodies, which have a comprehensive knowledge of their local populations, to commission services for people with CFS/ME, taking into account the resources they have available, the needs of their wider population, and available guidance on best practice.

Community Care: Mentally Ill

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to monitor the effectiveness of care in the community for mentally ill patients in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* West Yorkshire. [323829]

Phil Hope: From April the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will begin to operate a new registration system for providers of health and adult social care services, including mental health trusts and primary care trusts which provide community mental health services. In order to be registered, organisations will be required to meet essential levels of safety and quality. It will be illegal to provide a regulated activity without being registered by the Commission.

The CQC has also just published a positioning statement and action plan for mental heath care, outlining what it will do between 2010 and 2015 to ensure that mental health services reach not only basic standards of quality and safety, but also that they improve. The CQC has committed to ensuring that its mental health action plan is in line with the Government's New Horizons vision, and also takes account of other key national policy, guidance and findings.

Dementia

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what budget his Department has set for the Living Well campaign for dementia; and how much it has spent on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* print and *(d)* online advertising in respect of the campaign to date. [323901]

Phil Hope: The overall advertising budget set for the dementia awareness campaign in 2009-10 was £1,587,106.

The information requested is provided in the following table:

Advertising type	£
Television	866,025
Radio	242,812
Print	393,247
Online	85,022

Source:
Central Office of Information

Departmental Mass Media

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what keywords his Department is monitoring in the media; when each of those keywords began to be monitored; and what keywords have *(a)* been monitored and *(b)* ceased to be monitored since June 2009. [323914]

Phil Hope: The Department's Media Centre has employed Precise Media (previously known as EDS Media) to provide daily cuttings from the national press since July 2007. The keywords that are used to compile the cuttings are revised on a regular basis to reflect changes in departmental policy and in the ministerial team.

The list of keywords has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323459]

Phil Hope: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to share services, functions and back offices with local authorities as part of the Total Place initiative. [323959]

Phil Hope: The Government's report on Total Place will be published alongside Budget 2010.

Diabetes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of children in each age group who were diagnosed with diabetes in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* each borough in Essex, *(c)* each borough in Kent, *(d)* the Metropolitan police area of London and *(e)* England in each of the last five years. [323117]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The data requested are not collected in the requested format. However, 'Growing Up with Diabetes: Children and Young People with Diabetes in England' reported that in February 2009 there were 22,947 people aged 0 to 17 years in England with diabetes and 2,052 people aged between 0 to 17 years in the East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA) with diabetes.

The following table shows all types of diabetes by age in the East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA).

Total types of diabetes

	Age (years)							
SHA	*0-4*	*5-9*	*10-14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*Total*	*0-17 population*
East of England	81	383	866	250	238	234	2,052	1,226,621
London	151	497	1039	266	266	233	2,452	1,627,757
South East Coast	97	446	1103	267	353	233	2,499	924,546

The survey did not collect data on people aged 18 and over and data are only available by SHA.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group were diagnosed with diabetes in (i) Southend, (ii) each borough in Essex, (iii) each borough in Kent, (iv) the Metropolitan police area of London and (v) England in each of the last five years. [323118]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data are not collected in the format requested. Data from the Quality and Outcome Framework (QOF) about the number of people recorded on diabetes registers are available for NHS organisations. However, it is not possible to separate the data by gender or by age.

Table 1 presents data for Southend PCT for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 but in October 2006 this PCT was abolished and became part of South East Essex.

Table 1—Southend PCT

	Number
2004-05	5,193
2005-06	5,786

Table 2 presents data for the current PCTs in Essex with figures for years in which there was a different structure summed to the current structure.

Table 2—PCTs in Essex

	Mid Essex	*North East Essex*	*South East Essex*[1]	*South West Essex*	*West Essex*	*Total*
2004-05	11,007	10,542	10,439	12,390	8,729	53,107
2005-06	11,932	11,537	11,549	13,797	9,295	58,110
2006-07	12,405	12,433	12,499	14,298	9,713	61,348
2007-08	12,926	13,117	13,678	15,543	10,284	65,548
2008-09	14,041	13,948	14,574	16,530	11,051	70,144

[1] PCT figures includes figures for Southend PCT from previous table.

Table 3 shows data for the current PCTs in Kent with figures for years in which there was a different structure summed to the current structure.

Table 3—PCTs in Kent

	Medway	*Eastern and Coastal Kent*	*West Kent*	*Total*
2004-05	8,919	26,133	21,040	56,092
2005-06	9,667	27,821	22,139	59,627
2006-07	10,377	28,913	23,082	62,372

Table 3—PCTs in Kent

	Medway	*Eastern and Coastal Kent*	*West Kent*	*Total*
2007-08	11,562	31,182	24,666	67,410
2008-09	12,583	33,374	26,145	72,102

Table 4 provides data for the London strategic health authority with figures for previous structures summed to the current area.

Table 4—London

	Number
2004-05	278,527
2005-06	295,877
2006-07	300,567
2007-08	320,577
2008-09	337,561

Table 5 provides data for England.

Table 5—England

	Number
2004-05	1,766,391
2005-06	1,890,663
2006-07	1,961,976
2007-08	2,088,335
2008-09	2,213,138

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the number of people with diabetes who were hospitalised as a result of *(a)* eating and *(b)* drinking products labelled sugar-free which included sucrose or other sugar products in the last 12 months; whether he has had recent discussions with food manufacturers on the accuracy of information on the sugar content of foods; and if he will make a statement. [323119]

Gillian Merron: Data are not available from either Hospital Episode Statistics or the National Diabetes Audit to identify people hospitalised as a result of eating or drinking products labelled sugar-free which included sucrose or other sugar products.

Officials at the Food Standards Agency have advised that they have not had recent discussions with food manufacturers about the accuracy of the sugar content of foods.

Under the European Union Regulation EC/1924/2006, a claim that a food is sugar-free may only be made where the product contains no more than 0.5 g of sugars per 100 g or 100 ml. It is the responsibility of local authorities to enforce the EU regulations.

Health Services

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on *(a)* designating in-house bodies as preferred providers for the management of community services and *(b)* permitting care trusts to manage community services directly; and if he will make a statement. [323237]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department's guidance on the assurance and approvals process for primary care trust (PCT)-provided community services (published 5 February 2010) sets out the policy on direct provision. It said that PCTs should principally be commissioning organisations. Circumstances may make it appropriate for some PCTs to continue the direct provision of services, but this will not be the norm. Continued direct provision should not detract from the PCT's core role of commissioning, which should be of the highest standard.

The guidance also makes clear that in relation to care trusts, the continued management of community services is permissible where it meets the national tests as set out in the guidance.

The assurance and approvals process for PCT-provided community services has already been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/index.htm

Health Services: Training

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the first higher education courses in healthcare science will begin; and what guidance his Department has provided to universities on the content of such courses. [323110]

Gillian Merron: These commenced last year with a masters in clinical science (genetics) at the university of Nottingham.

Further courses will commence in September 2010 in some institutions and these have been given indicative curricula.

Home Care Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the comments of the Care Services Minister of 28 March 2010 in *The Times* newspaper, what representations he received from care charities in support of the Personal Care at Home Bill. [323834]

Phil Hope: I was referring, in my comments of 18 March 2010, to an open letter in support of the Personal Care at Home Bill, sent on 16 March to the media and to hon. Members and noble Lords and signed by the heads of seven charities. These included Carers UK, Counsel and Care, Help the Aged/Age Concern, RADAR, the WRVS, Contact a Family and Grandparents Plus.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 773W, on home care services: finances, how many people in England receive *(a)* free and *(b)* partially funded home care; and how much was spent on providing that care in the latest period for which figures are available. [323835]

Phil Hope: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects information from councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) on numbers receiving and expenditure on social care services via the Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care (RAP) and the Personal Social Services Expenditure (PSS Ex1) returns.

However, RAP and PSS Ex1 data do not differentiate between service users whose care is fully funded by CASSRs and those whose care is partially funded.

During the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008—the latest available data—577,000 adults aged 18 and over in England received home care, funded either partly or wholly by their CASSR, following a community care assessment. £2.7 billion was spent by CASSRs in 2007-08 on providing home care.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority: Consultants

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has paid to *(a)* Media Strategy and *(b)* Hanover Communications in the last two years. [323968]

Gillian Merron: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has advised that it paid Hanover Communications (formerly Media Strategy) £29,322.13 between March and May 2008. No further payments were made after May 2008.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects his Department to publish guidance to primary care trusts on the use of local tenders and product formularies for products and services covered by Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [323855]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department is currently seeking legal advice on this issue. Subject to receiving these instructions, guidance will be prepared and published later this year.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whom his Department has consulted in its recent discussions on the use of tenders and formularies for products and services covered by Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [323923]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Officials in the Department met representatives of the British Healthcare Trades Association (BHTA) on 11 February 2010. The meeting took place following a series of concerns raised directly with the Department by the BHTA about the activities of primary care trusts and Collaborative Procurement Hubs seeking to tender in Part IX areas. In particular, the BHTA had raised concerns over the legality of such activity under the terms of Part IX of the drug tariff.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the Part IX Guidance and Assurance Framework for the Drug Tariff arrangements to enter into force on 1 April 2010. [323924]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Part IX Guidance and Assurance Framework for the arrangements coming into force on 1 April 2010 are currently being finalised with the aim of publishing them in the next few weeks. Contractors have a transition period of nine months before they have to comply with the new regulations.

Infectious Diseases

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases there were of *(a)* mumps, *(b)* scarlet fever, *(c)* tuberculosis, *(d)* typhoid, *(e)* measles and *(f)* rubella in (i) England and (ii) each London borough in each year from 2000 to 2009. [323778]

Gillian Merron: The following data have been provided by the Health Protection Agency (HPA).

Laboratory confirmed cases of mumps: England and HPA London regions: 2000-09

	England	*London*
2000	730	22
2001	784	66
2002	500	19
2003	1,541	64
2004	8,129	292
2005	43,378	3,650
2006	4,420	659
2007	1,476	125
2008	2,403	446
2009 (provisional data)	7,628	895

Data are not available for individual London boroughs.

Scarlet fever notifications by London local authority (LA) and England: 2000-09

LA	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009[1]*
Barking and Dagenham	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	2	23
Barnet	12	6	6	8	5	3	9	4	20	59
Bexley	11	7	17	8	13	6	4	6	7	14
Brent	9	10	4	8	9	2	1	2	3	6
Bromley	25	15	16	19	18	9	44	12	14	47
Camden	6	2	3	15	15	0	4	6	10	30
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Croydon	15	13	24	18	38	20	33	18	20	20
Ealing	22	13	25	12	18	4	15	11	6	16
Enfield	3	6	4	10	6	1	7	6	68	43
Greenwich	1	4	4	3	5	4	5	6	7	16
Hackney	6	20	2	4	8	12	13	5	31	49
Hammersmith and Fulham	3	3	1	6	9	0	5	12	6	12
Haringey	4	2	3	3	1	0	4	5	23	51
Harrow	6	6	3	6	9	8	5	6	4	21
Havering	8	5	3	9	4	9	10	9	17	38
Hillingdon	1	1	5	3	0	3	2	5	5	6
Hounslow	5	3	3	5	4	6	9	4	10	20

Scarlet fever notifications by London local authority (LA) and England: 2000-09

LA	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009[1]
Islington	13	11	16	20	21	8	8	2	20	22
Kensington and Chelsea	1	4	8	6	7	0	6	12	4	8
Kingston upon Thames	1	1	4	3	7	0	3	12	7	9
Lambeth	8	11	23	12	12	7	8	13	22	37
Lewisham	13	14	21	10	15	9	13	15	17	67
Merton	4	15	13	11	21	4	16	16	13	23
Newham	4	3	7	5	2	5	4	5	23	37
Redbridge	6	3	6	11	6	5	5	5	20	56
Richmond upon Thames	13	7	8	12	19	9	2	7	17	42
Southwark	7	5	18	11	25	12	17	9	39	49
Sutton	5	9	8	14	7	2	4	13	5	7
Tower Hamlets	11	21	24	18	15	14	19	9	20	42
Waltham Forest	9	7	6	9	9	8	7	6	9	22
Wandsworth	9	5	3	4	22	20	25	12	19	39
Westminster, City of	15	18	25	16	10	8	8	9	11	24
London total	257	250	313	299	361	198	318	263	499	955
England total	1,897	1,698	2,080	2,488	2,121	1,601	2,084	1,876	2,847	4,066

[1] Provisional

Tuberculosis case reports by London local authority and England: 2000-09

LA	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009[1]	Total 2000-09
Barking and Dagenham	38	29	35	42	43	59	50	62	70	75	503
Barnet	86	76	101	102	94	114	124	104	115	107	1,023
Bexley	13	15	21	25	29	22	19	28	22	19	213
Brent	220	229	206	217	232	283	241	274	304	303	2,509
Bromley	23	17	25	31	28	29	41	36	20	32	282
Camden	64	89	116	106	77	104	95	89	87	100	927
City of London	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	21
Croydon	96	96	108	113	119	113	103	115	111	124	1,098
Ealing	213	187	197	187	254	237	234	245	194	226	2,174
Enfield	80	93	80	97	95	103	99	73	101	117	938
Greenwich	49	68	72	72	88	87	98	105	138	124	901
Hackney	130	124	143	155	155	132	134	143	124	115	1,355
Hammersmith and Fulham	84	67	81	64	69	89	81	69	69	73	746
Haringey	134	150	140	127	149	130	155	92	106	131	1,314
Harrow	92	96	114	115	99	131	125	122	127	137	1,158
Havering	29	16	19	13	12	29	23	16	20	30	207
Hillingdon	72	89	95	116	117	137	125	124	153	125	1,153
Hounslow	82	122	120	98	117	166	138	137	133	179	1,292
Islington	87	84	106	94	88	82	99	93	93	93	919
Kensington and Chelsea	46	41	31	51	48	46	53	32	52	50	450
Kingston upon Thames	11	16	18	19	22	27	26	28	29	31	227
Lambeth	107	130	158	155	126	142	137	105	131	118	1,309
Lewisham	62	71	91	79	77	98	84	101	82	77	822
Merton	43	32	54	40	62	61	66	58	64	62	542
Newham	244	208	214	245	241	258	265	275	283	316	2,549
Redbridge	89	89	92	110	110	118	144	138	161	150	1,201
Richmond upon Thames	9	11	15	12	12	19	20	13	13	21	145
Southwark	84	98	106	100	131	139	128	109	116	97	1,108
Sutton	11	18	30	30	23	24	27	31	18	32	244
Tower Hamlets	88	64	122	147	117	128	137	154	131	144	1,232
Waltham Forest	91	68	104	99	99	115	122	91	129	98	1,016
Wandsworth	63	50	94	96	94	124	82	117	109	82	911
Westminster, City of	89	78	75	89	85	97	85	86	70	82	836

Tuberculosis case reports by London local authority and England: 2000-09

LA	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009[1]	Total 2000-09
Total London[2]	2,635	2,629	2,986	3,054	3,114	3,447	3,362	3,267	3,376	3,476	31,346
Total England	6,075	6,296	6,669	6,691	7,011	7,763	7,828	7,736	7,970	8,423	72,462

[1] Provisional
[2] Total includes cases of unknown local authority
Note:
Numbers of cases <5 are suppressed to avoid deductive disclosure.

Laboratory confirmed cases of Typhoidal Salmonella (Salmonella Typhi and Salmonella Paratyphi): England and HPA London region: 2000-09

	England	London
2000	329	134
2001	422	146
2002	306	106
2003	403	163
2004	433	176
2005	466	175
2006	539	209
2007	518	207
2008	568	220
2009 (provisional data)	475	192

Data are not available for individual London boroughs.

Laboratory confirmed cases of measles: England and HPA London region: 2000-09

	England	London
2000	100	50
2001	70	25
2002	308	197
2003	438	169
2004	191	55
2005	77	33
2006	740	274
2007	990	440
2008	1,370	664
2009 (provisional data)	1,144	198

Data are not available for individual London boroughs.

Laboratory confirmed cases of rubella: England and HPA London region: 2000 to 2009

	England	London
2000	60	11
2001	45	15
2002	64	21
2003	16	4
2004	14	6
2005	29	7
2006	34	19
2007	35	16
2008	27	9
2009 (provisional data)	8	2

Data are not available for individual London boroughs.

Medical Records: Children

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 641W, on medical records: children, how many parents have obtained opt-outs through their general practitioners in respect of their children's summary care records. [323906]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not held centrally, but at individual general practitioner practices. The earlier reply was based on anonymised information obtained by the Department from a small sample of practices at the request of the independent, statutory National Information Governance Board.

Midwives

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is *(a)* taking and *(b)* plans to take during the next six months to recruit midwives to the national health service; and if he will make a statement. [323095]

Gillian Merron: Our plan is to have 4,000 more midwives by 2012 (based on 2006 baseline), subject to the birth rate continuing to rise. Each strategic health authority has made recruitment, retention and return plans.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training places were available for midwifery in each year since 1997. [323096]

Gillian Merron: We do not hold data centrally on the number of available midwifery training places.

The following table shows the number of midwifery training commissions for the years requested.

	Degree	Diploma	Other	Total
1996-97	161	498	993	1,652
1997-98	224	572	908	1,704
1998-99	255	597	899	1,751
1999-2000	395	620	757	1,772
2000-01	494	604	789	1,887
2001-02	621	525	732	1,878
2002-03	709	724	677	2,110
2003-04	753	716	757	2,226
2004-05	895	744	735	2,374
2005-06	1,042	517	661	2,220
2006-07	983	540	467	1,990
2007-08	1,307	412	352	2,071
2008-09	1,944	0	328	2,272

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives left the national health service in each year since 1997. [323097]

Gillian Merron: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average salary of an NHS midwife is; and what it was in each year since 1997. [323098]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The average salary of a national health service midwife is £37,200 (2009) and was £36,100 in 2008. Prior to 2008, the average salary for a NHS midwife was not collected separately but included with qualified nurses (see following table).

Qualified nurse

	Average salary (£)
1997-98	20,830
1998-99	21,042
1999-00	22,329
2000-01	23,427
2001-02	24,733
2002-03	25,702
2003-04	26,342
2004-05	27,697
2005-06	28,784
2006-07	29,861
2007-08	31,149
2008-09	32,339

Notes:
1. Average salaries are estimated from the Qualified Nurse Paybill figures using NHS Accounts data together with the NHS pension scheme rates, and national insurance rates and thresholds that apply to NHS employers.
2. The Paybill data include all qualified nurses employed by NHS trusts, primary care trusts, strategic health authorities and foundation trusts in England. They exclude agency nurses.
3. Foundation trusts do not submit a breakdown of their Paybill by staff group. Figures from 2004-05 onwards include estimates for the breakdown of each foundation trust.
4. Average salaries have been expressed in real terms using the HM Treasury gross domestic product deflator index.
Sources:
Department of Health Paybill Model 2008-09
Trust Financial Returns and Foundation Trust Annual Reports (Paybill data)
Information Centre Workforce Census

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have enrolled on the midwifery return to practice course in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [323133]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of midwives retiring from the NHS in the next 10 years; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* maternity service managers, *(b)* professional representative bodies and *(c)* others on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [323134]

Gillian Merron: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local authorities, strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, and to commission services accordingly taking into account the age profile of its work force.

Ministers meet regularly with professional representative bodies and others and we discuss a range of work force issues.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent midwives were working in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years; and how many were working in each NHS organisation in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex in each of the last five years. [323245]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows numbers of qualified midwifery staff in national health service organisations in Essex.

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Southend Hospital NHS Trust	100	96	91	97	100
Basildon and Thurrock General Hospital NHS Trust	111	108	113	114	116
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	114	117	115	107	—
Colchester Hospital University Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	110
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	78	80	84	90	84
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	77	84	80	83	87

Notes:
1. Only those trusts that provide midwifery services are included in the table.
2. Colchester Hospital University Foundation Trust gained foundation trust status on 1 May 2008; it was formerly known as Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS trust.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

NHS: Procurement

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of each piece of written advice he has received from the Co-operation and Competition Panel on the preferred provider policy for the NHS. [321546]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have engaged extensively with the Cooperation and Competition Panel (CCP) in the development of guidance setting out the implications of the preferred provider policy. However, the Department does not normally disclose advice on policy guidance that is yet to be approved by Ministers. We will consider publishing details of the CCP's advice following publication of any guidance.

Northwick Park Hospital: Accident and Emergency Departments

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children up to 16 years old, and *(b)* elderly and *(c)* other patients were seen per hour in the accident and emergency department of Northwick Park Hospital in the latest period for which figures are available. [323473]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data are not available in the format requested. Data are collected by trust and are shown in the following table.

Total number of attendances in 2008-09 accident and emergency (A and E) HES, broken down by 24 hour of arrival and age groups, in North West London NHS Trust

Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Age group			
24 hour arrival	*16 and under*	*17-64*	*65+*	*Not known*
Total	43,872	104,870	27,298	12
00:00	1,080	2,854	523	—
01:00	741	2,484	444	1
02:00	572	1,894	335	1
03:00	442	1,615	348	—
04:00	382	1,415	331	—
05:00	422	1,440	394	—
06:00	397	1,512	437	—
07:00	556	2,329	544	—
08:00	1,080	4,344	946	—
09:00	2,153	6,150	1,558	—
10:00	2,606	7,276	2,093	—
11:00	2,706	6,662	2,095	—
12:00	2,632	6,346	2,048	—
13:00	2,524	6,105	1,894	-
14:00	2,382	5,939	1,994	1
15:00	2,317	5,381	1,758	—
16:00	2,421	5,191	1,544	1
17:00	2,542	5,378	1,502	1
18:00	2,945	5,607	1,389	—
19:00	3,121	5,578	1,245	1
20:00	3,003	5,530	1,234	—
21:00	2,817	5,122	995	3
22:00	2,290	4,725	914	3
23:00	1,741	3,993	733	—

Notes:

1. Total attendance

An attendance is a record for every patient that attends an A and E department, including a major A and E department, single specialty A and E departments, walk-in centres and minor injuries units. Any one patient can have multiple attendances, which may be in the same or different time period, for the same or different condition. An attendance can be split into whether the attendance was either a new or a follow-up attendance, using the 'Attendance Category' data field.

2. A and E data quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by a number of NHS providers across England. The NHS Information centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seek to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain. A and E HES data are available for the year 2007-08, which covers attendances reported between April 2007 and March 2008. The A and E HES data for 2007-08 are the first record level national A and E attendance data to be available within HES. The current coverage and quality of A and E data in HES is poor and for this reason the dataset has been labelled as 'experimental'. Allowing access to this data will also help stimulate discussion and encourage trusts to improve quality for subsequent releases. The 2007-08 A and E HES publication addresses some of the key data quality and coverage issues. This report is available on HESonline: www.hesonline.nhs.uk

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Respite Care: Staffordshire

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated by *(a)* North Staffordshire, *(b)* South Staffordshire and *(c)* Stoke-on-Trent primary care trusts for carer's respite in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [323057]

Phil Hope: The information is not held centrally.

The Department does not break down primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations by policies at either national or local level and there is no weighted capitation formula specific to carers that would allow needs to be accurately identified at the local level. It is therefore for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally, taking into account their local circumstances and priorities set out in the NHS Operating Framework.

Social Services: Complaints

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has taken steps to put in place a complaints system for *(a)* self-funding users of residential social care, *(b)* partly self-funding users of residential social care and *(c)* residents of privately-run care homes. [323918]

Phil Hope: Section 35 and schedule 5 of the Health Act 2009 contain provisions for a new complaints scheme for adult social care self-funders, to be operated by the local government ombudsman. This scheme is due to be implemented on 1 October 2010.

People whose care is provided or arranged by local authorities, including those who are residents in privately-run care homes, already have access to the existing statutory local authority adult social services complaints procedure.

Treatment Centres: Finance

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid to each wave 1 independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) under its contract; and how much would have been paid to each ISTC for its work if it had been paid at the national tariff. [323043]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The total cost of payments made to Wave One Independent Sector Treatment Centre (ISTC) providers, up to 31 January 2010, is summarised by treatment centre in the following table:

Treatment centre name	*Provider name*	*Total payment to date (£ million)*
Eccleshill NHS Treatment Centre	Nations Healthcare	40.9
Midlands NHS Treatment Centre	Nations Healthcare	57.3
Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre	PHG	95
Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre	UKSH	101.3
Greater Manchester Surgical Centre	Netcare Healthcare	80.9
Peninsula NHS Treatment Centre	PHG	56.4
Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	24.4
Boston NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	9
Clifton Park NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	43.7
The Cobalt NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	10.4
Gainsborough NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	6.1

Treatment centre name	Provider name	Total payment to date (£ million)
New Hall NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	40.4
Horton NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	50
Blakelands NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	12.8
Reading NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	14.3
Nottingham NHS Treatment Centre at QMC	Nations Healthcare	54.1
Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre	Interhealth	80.2
Kidderminster NHS Treatment Centre	Interhealth	27.2
Mid Kent NHS Treatment Centre	PHG	22.8
North East London NHS Treatment Centre	PHG	65.8
Sussex Orthopaedic NHS Treatment Centre	Care UK	75.3
Havant NHS Diagnostic Centre	Care UK	4.4
Will Adams NHS Treatment Centre	Care UK	23.5
St. Mary's NHS Treatment Centre	Care UK	55.8
Mid and South Buckinghamshire NHS Diagnostic Centre	Care UK	11
Total	—	1,062.6

The Department does not hold comparable information about what the total cost of payments to Wave One ISTC providers would have been under the tariff set for comparable NHS procedures.

Tuberculosis: Offenders

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that medical treatment of prisoners with tuberculosis continues on leaving custody. [323421]

Phil Hope: The Department acknowledges that prisoners leaving prison with a diagnosed medical condition such as tuberculosis require ongoing care from primary and specialist care services in the community.

This is a challenge given the often complex social and personal circumstances of prison-leavers. Issues around homelessness are a particular concern as it can lead to loss of contact with locality based care services. Recognising the need for cross-organisation working, the Department has committed itself to improving care pathways for offenders in prison and in the community in the cross government Health and Criminal Justice Delivery Plan "Improving Health, Supporting Justice" (November 2009, Department of Health). A copy has already been placed in the Library.

In the interim, through-care and after-care programmes in prisons endeavour to ensure that ongoing care requirements are met and planning for discharge occurs so that prison-leavers are referred to services in their home community. Our partners recognise this challenge too and are actively engaged in working through the issues with us.

Tuberculosis: Screening

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the NHS in diagnosing those with tuberculosis; and what steps he is taking to improve the methods used by the NHS to diagnose people with that disease. [323668]

Gillian Merron: The Department has made no specific assessment of the effectiveness of the national health service in diagnosing tuberculosis. The Care Quality Commission, as part of its Annual Health Check of NHS organisations, monitors the implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines and assesses how the NHS implements delivery of services, including TB services. The organisation and running of local services are matters for local NHS management. Primary care trusts are responsible for procuring TB services to fit their local demography and incidence of TB in their area, and ensuring that those standards are monitored, met and reviewed as part of the commissioning process.

The Department published a toolkit in June 2007 for the NHS recommending that the NICE clinical guidelines (published 2006) on the diagnosis and management of tuberculosis should be followed by all NHS service providers.

The diagnosis of TB is made from a combination of context, symptoms, clinical signs and investigation. NICE recommends that clinical investigation for pulmonary TB (the only infectious form) comprise a chest X-ray, followed by multiple sputum samples for TB microscopy and culture. These represent the current 'gold standard' diagnostic tools, and NICE advises that if the clinical signs and symptoms are consistent with pulmonary TB then treatment should be started without waiting for further tests.

NICE identified areas for future research, one of which concerned Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) tests, to assess whether interferon-gamma tests are acceptable to patients and more effective than tuberculin skin tests for predicting subsequent development of active TB, or diagnosing or ruling out current active TB. Research proposals have been set in motion for these, but results of these studies are likely to be some years away.

Vaccination: Children

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has made an estimate of the number of children eligible for vaccines resident in areas in which the Child Health Interim Application is in use in the last three years; [323915]

(2) whether he has made an estimate of the effect on the number of children receiving immunisations of errors in the Child Health Interim Application. [323916]

Gillian Merron: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) monitors and publishes quarterly COVER (Cover of Vaccine Evaluated Rapidly) uptake data, which include that from London Strategic Health Authority. These are published on the HPA website:

www.hpa.org.uk/HPA/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/1204031507699/

In order to ensure that children within primary care trusts (PCTs) using the Interim Child Health Interim Application (CHIA) received their immunisations at the right time, both regular and additional audit activities were carried out by PCTs, general practitioner practices, BT (the Local Service Provider for the London Cluster) and the Health Protection Agency. These activities have been used to validate the immunisation returns and to ensure that any children overdue an immunisation are invited to have one at the appropriate time. PCT chief executives and the Director of Public Health for London were fully engaged in and supportive of these activities.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made for the purposes of the allocation of regional funding by the Homes and Communities Agency of the likely number of HomeBuy Direct completions in each region in 2010-11. [324149]

John Healey: HomeBuy Direct is a demand-led product so regional funding is adjusted to match take-up by first-time buyers.

Agriculture: Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to Lord Taylor of Holbeach of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 290WA, on planning, what the timetable for the review of effectiveness of planning policy guidance on the protection of the best and most versatile farmland is. [323089]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

Planning policy on agricultural land requires local planning authorities to take account of the presence of best and most versatile agricultural land, alongside other sustainability considerations, when determining planning applications. As outlined in the soil strategy, "Safeguarding our Soils[1]", DEFRA and the Department for Communities and Local Government are committed to reviewing the weight that should be given to protecting this land from development. It is planned that the findings from this review will be delivered in 2010.

[1] Soil Strategy, Safeguarding our Soils:
www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf

Council Housing: Immigrants

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the European Court of Justice ruling in Cases C-310/08 and C-480/08, London borough of Harrow *v.* Nimco Hassan Ibrahim and Maria Teixeira *v.* London borough of Lambeth, on the requirements of local authorities to provide council housing to migrant workers. [323157]

Mr. Ian Austin: We are considering the implications of judgment of the European Court of Justice for the allocation of social housing.

However, because of the very specific circumstances of the two cases, we do not expect that the judgment will have a significant impact on the amount of council housing provided to migrant workers.

Demolition

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1144W, on housing: regeneration, how much was spent on demolitions in each pathfinder area in each year since 2003-04. [323997]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 364W.

Disabled Facilities Grants: Hyndburn

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he intends to announce the Disabled Facilities Grants allocation for Hyndburn borough council for the year 2010-11. [322812]

Mr. Ian Austin: An announcement on the Disabled Facilities Grant allocations for the year 2010-11, including Hyndburn borough council's allocation, will be made shortly.

Details of the amount awarded to each local authority will be available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/supportandadaptations/housingadaptations/localauthoritydfgallocations/

and will also be made available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements apply to homes in eco-towns to be constructed at *(a)* Level 5 and *(b)* Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. [323300]

John Healey: The Planning Policy Statement: eco-towns (PPS), that we published last July, sets out the standards that eco-towns must achieve. The primary focus is to set targets for innovation across the development as a whole, rather than an individual building approach, but it does include minimum performance levels for individual dwellings, including that they should meet at least level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes.

On energy efficiency and carbon, the PPS will require dwellings in eco-towns to demonstrate high levels of energy efficiency in the fabric of the building, having regard to proposals for standards to be incorporated into changes to the Building Regulations between now and 2016, and to meet at least 70 per cent. carbon reduction on site relative to Part L 2006 of the building regulations. This level of onsite carbon reduction is more demanding than Code level 4, is consistent with the zero carbon homes standard announced last year

and will take effect significantly earlier than the general zero carbon homes requirement. In addition, over a year, the net carbon dioxide emissions from all energy use within the buildings on the eco-town development as a whole must be zero or below. This too is consistent with (and, depending on policy decisions to be made on allowable solutions for zero-carbon homes, may be more demanding than) the definition of Zero Carbon Homes which the Government have adopted for introduction in 2016.

The Eco-towns PPS includes a range of ambitious standards on other aspects of sustainability including high Code levels, for example in relation to water consumption, which taken together are the toughest standards ever required for new development. Copies of the PPS are available in the House Library.

Eco-Towns: Construction

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes he expects to be built in each proposed eco-town; and over what period. [323530]

John Healey: As we set out in Planning Policy Statement: eco-towns, each location must be able to make provision for at least 5,000 homes. We expect 10,000 homes to be built by 2016, of which at least 30 per cent. will be affordable, and up to 10 eco-towns under development by 2020.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's publication, "Warm homes, greener homes: a strategy for household energy management", whether a privacy impact assessment will be prepared in respect of plans to increase the number of public bodies with access to the Energy Performance Certificate Register. [324010]

John Healey: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has recently published 'Warm Homes, Greener Homes', the Government's strategy for Household Energy Management. This Department has recently published a consultation, 'Making better use of Energy Performance Certificates and Data'. This consultation sets out our proposals for increased access to the data collected through energy performance certificates and display energy certificates.

A small-scale privacy impact statement has been completed by this Department in relation to the proposals contained in the consultation.

Gardens

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an estimate of the proportion of *(a)* private rented, *(b)* social rented and *(c)* owner-occupied households with access to a garden in each year since 1997. [324034]

Mr. Ian Austin: Estimates of the proportion of households in each tenure with access to a garden for each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07 are provided in the following table. These estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing and include those with access to a yard/patio. The question was not asked in 2007-08.

Households with access to a garden[1], England

	Percentage of households in tenure		
	Private renters	*Social renters*	*Owner occupiers*
1997-98	77	71	96
1998-99	78	74	96
1999-2000	76	73	96
2000-01	80	74	96
2001-02	74	73	96
2002-03	77	75	97
2003-04	76	75	97
2004-05	73	72	96
2005-06	75	75	97
2006-07	77	77	97

[1] Includes those with a yard/patio, typically around 5 per cent. of owner occupiers and social renters and 15 per cent. of private renters.

Source:
Survey of English Housing

Green Belt

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what change there has been to the extent of green belt land in *(a)* England and *(b)* Coventry since 1997. [310679]

Mr. Ian Austin: The extent of green belt land in England increased between 1997 and 2009 by around 34,000 hectares if one disregards the re-designation of 47,300 hectares as part of the New Forest National Park in 2005. Since development control in National Parks is very strict, that re-designation need not be seen as a loss of green belt countryside.

The area of green belt in Coventry has been maintained at around 3,020 hectares between 1997 and 2009.

Homelessness

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of homeless people in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England. [323178]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as owed a main homelessness duty is published in the first supplementary table of the Department's quarterly statistical release on statutory homelessness. This is available in both the Library of the House and via the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq42009

The information is collected and published at local authority level. Lancashire comprises the following local housing authorities: Burnley, Chorley, Fylde, Hyndburn, Lancaster, Pendle, Preston, Ribble Valley, Rossendale, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Wyre. The information is not collected at constituency level.

Information is also collected and reported on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who

are literally roofless on a single night. Local authority data and count guidance can be found on the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/roughsleeping2009

Homelessness: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated under the hostels improvement programme to *(a)* Leeds City Council and *(b)* voluntary sector organisations in Leeds in the last 12 months. [323827]

Mr. Ian Austin: Leeds city council has received £100,000 funding for hostel capital improvement under what is now called the Places of Change Programme for The Crypt Project run by St. George's Crypt. This is in addition to the £988,568 that was provided to the scheme in March 2008. In May 2009, £15,000 was allocated to the voluntary sector organisation Create CiC Ltd. in order to set up a social enterprise community interest company (called Found by Create) which works with homeless people in Leeds.

The Places of Change Programme will provide £80 million to 90 projects in 62 local authority areas in England to make hostels and other homelessness facilities for homeless people more dynamic places with an emphasis on helping move to independent living and paid employment.

Homelessness: Young People

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of young people who have left their family home without having in place arrangements to live independently in the last 12 months. [323177]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on young people who have left their family home without having in place arrangements to live independently is not held centrally. Information is collected on the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as owed a main homelessness duty by primary priority need category. In 2009 being a young person (aged 16 or 17) was the primary reason for priority need for 2,490 households accepted, 6 per cent. of all acceptances.

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the ratio of median quintile house prices to lowest quintile earnings was in 2009. [315664]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested can be found on the Land Registry and ONS websites.

Housing: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 371W, on housing: databases, if he will place in the Library a copy of the cross-reference table produced by Ordnance Survey; and which bodies produce unique address identifiers that are included in the cross-reference look-up table. [323197]

Mr. Ian Austin: The bodies which produce the unique address identifiers included in the cross-reference look-up table are Royal Mail, Ordnance Survey and the Valuation Office Agency. A copy of the cross-reference table is available free of charge from Ordnance Survey at:

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

or by telephone on 08456 05 05 05.

Local Authorities: Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much local authorities spent on *(a)* children and families services and *(b)* other adult care in (i) cash and (ii) real-terms in 2009 figures according to revenue account budget estimates data held by his Department in each year since 1997; [323227]

(2) how much local authorities spent on public conveniences in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real-terms in 2009 figures, according to revenue account budget estimates data held by his Department in each year since 1997; [323310]

(3) how much local authorities spent on waste collection in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real-terms in 2009 figures, according to revenue account budget estimates data held by his Department in each year since 1997; [323311]

(4) how much local authorities spent on street cleaning in *(a)* cash and *(b)* 2009 real-terms figures, in each year since 1997 according to revenue account budget estimates data held by his Department; [323312]

(5) how much local authorities spent on culture and heritage in *(a)* cash and *(b)* 2009 real-terms figures in each year since 1997 according to revenue account budget estimates data held by his Department. [323313]

Barbara Follett: The information requested, as reported by local authorities in England, is tabled as follows.

Net current expenditure: England—Cash

£ million

			Asylum seekers[1]			*Strategy*[1]		
	Children and families services	*Other adult care*	*Children*	*Adult*	*Total*	*Children*	*Adult*	*Total*
1997-98	2,218.3	6,121.4	—	—	—	—	—	90.9
1998-99	2,415.2	6,319.1	—	—	192.7	—	—	105.4
1999-2000	2,762.2	6,839.8	—	—	305.5	—	—	110.0

Net current expenditure: England—Cash

£ million

	Children and families services	Other adult care	Asylum seekers[1] Children	Asylum seekers[1] Adult	Asylum seekers[1] Total	Strategy[1] Children	Strategy[1] Adult	Strategy[1] Total
2000-01	2,835.0	7,196.1	—	—	551.2	—	—	121.0
2001-02	3,118.7	7,683.3	—	—	552.7	—	—	102.0
2002-03	3,469.8	8,797.8	—	—	520.9	—	—	142.2
2003-04[4]	3,991.7	10,256.2	—	—	469.2	—	—	84.0
2004-05	4,487.9	11,351.8	—	—	336.6	—	—	75.1
2005-06	4,757.2	12,186.8	—	—	259.1	—	—	71.5
2006-07	5,039.9	12,706.0	176.1	54.9	231.0	26.7	50.8	77.5
2007-08	5,219.0	12,988.9	141.2	45.1	186.3	86.6	51.4	138.0
2008-09	5,531.8	13,637.1	147.8	45.5	193.3	127.4	63.8	191.2

Real terms (at 2008-09 prices)

£ million

	Children and families services	Other adult care	Asylum seekers[1] Children	Asylum seekers[1] Adult	Asylum seekers[1] Total	Strategy[1] Children	Strategy[1] Adult	Strategy[1] Total
1997-98	2,887.0	7,966.7	—	—	—	—	—	118.3
1998-99	3,078.4	8,054.3	—	—	245.7	—	—	134.3
1999-2000	3452.7	8,549.5	—	—	381.9	—	—	137.5
2000-01	3,497.8	8,878.2	—	—	680.0	—	—	149.2
2001-02	3,763.7	9,272.3	—	—	667.1	—	—	123.1
2002-03	4,056.6	10,285.5	—	—	609.0	—	—	166.2
2003-04[4]	4,538.8	11,661.8	—	—	533.5	—	—	95.5
2004-05	4,964.9	12,558.4	—	—	372.4	—	—	83.1
2005-06	5,166.4	13,235.2	—	—	281.4	—	—	77.7
2006-07	5,316.2	13,402.6	185.8	57.9	243.6	28.1	53.6	81.7
2007-08	5,350.6	13,316.6	144.8	46.3	191.0	88.8	52.7	141.5
2008-09	5,531.8	13,637.1	147.8	45.5	193.3	127.4	63.8	191.2

Net current expenditure: England—Cash

£ million

	Public conveniences[2]	Waste collection	Street cleansing (not chargeable to highways)	Culture and heritage[3]
1997-98	96.4	522.0	337.9	n/a
1998-99	93.8	551.2	361.3	346.3
1999-2000	91.8	581.7	390.4	318.7
2000-01	84.0	637.0	412.8	378.5
2001-02	83.1	676.1	434.4	405.4
2002-03	83.7	752.1	476.6	427.8
2003-04[4]	83.5	865.1	538.3	437.1
2004-05	83.3	965.1	594.6	441.7
2005-06	86.0	1,040.7	627.0	490.6
2006-07	86.6	1,116.0	661.3	535.7
2007-08	87.4	1,186.9	696.8	557.0
2008-09	88.6	1,237.2	741.1	593.6

Real terms (at 2008-09 prices)

£ million

	Public conveniences[2]	Waste collection	Street cleansing (not chargeable to highways)	Culture and heritage[3]
1997-98	125.4	679.4	439.7	n/a
1998-99	119.5	702.6	460.5	441.4
1999-2000	114.7	727.1	488.0	398.4
2000-01	103.6	735.9	509.3	467.0
2001-02	100.3	815.9	524.2	489.3
2002-03	97.9	879.3	557.2	500.2
2003-04[4]	95.0	983.7	612.1	497.0
2004-05	92.2	1,067.7	657.8	488.6
2005-06	93.4	1,130.2	681.0	532.8
2006-07	91.3	1,177.2	697.5	565.0
2007-08	89.6	1,216.8	714.4	571.1

Real terms (at 2008-09 prices)

£ million

	Public conveniences[2]	*Waste collection*	*Street cleansing (not chargeable to highways)*	*Culture and heritage*[3]
2008-09	88.6	1,237.2	741.1	593.6

[1] A breakdown of children and adult figures prior to 2006-07 is not available.
[2] Figures prior to 2001-02 include contributions to rural sewage schemes and cesspool emptying.
[3] 1997-98 figure is not available.
[4] Figures from 2003-04 onwards are collected on a Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 17 basis

Source:
Communities and Local Government revenue outturn (RO) returns.

The current expenditure defined here is the cost of running local authority services within the financial year. This includes the costs of staffing, heating, lighting and cleaning, together with expenditure on goods and services consumed within the year. This expenditure is offset by income from sales, fees and charges and other (non-grant) income, to give net current expenditure.

Figures from 2003-04 onwards are collected on a Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 17 basis.

The real-terms figures are calculated using the latest H M Treasury GDP deflator.

Local Government: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the letter to leaders of principal local authorities in Norfolk of 9 March 2010 from the Minister for Local Government, who will act as a champion in Whitehall for the Norfolk councils; and for what reasons other areas have not been given such a champion. [323527]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I look forward to a positive response from the local authorities in Norfolk to my letter of 9 March 2010. Should they seek a Whitehall champion, the details will be agreed following discussion with those councils.

Other areas in England have been offered similar "champions" during the local area agreement negotiations and the recent Total Place pilots.

Local Government: Fraud

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an estimate of the monetary value of the potential frauds identified by the Audit Commission in its National Fraud Initiative since the inception of that initiative. [324014]

Barbara Follett: The Audit Commission requires all participants in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) to report the levels of fraudulent and erroneous payments prevented and detected as a result of following up the data matches provided to them. The totals of fraudulent and erroneous payments are given in the national reports published at the end of each exercise. From its launch in 1996 to the end of the 2006/07 exercise, the cumulative reported outcomes from the NFI totalled some £450 million.

The report on the most recent completed exercise, NFI 2008-09, is scheduled for publication in May 2010, and the Audit Commission is confident that this figure will have increased significantly.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding his Department allocated under the Mortgage Rescue scheme in each region for the spending period 2008-11; [324144]

(2) how much funding his Department allocated under the Mortgage Rescue scheme in each region in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how much such funding has been allocated for (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; [324146]

(3) how much funding the Homes and Communities Agency allocated for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in the spending period 2008-11; [324150]

(4) what estimate he has made for the purposes of the allocation of regional funding by the Homes and Communities Agency of the number of households likely to accept offers on their homes under the Mortgage Rescue scheme in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* the spending period 2008-11; [324154]

(5) what proportion of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme budget has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent to date. [324156]

John Healey: The Mortgage Rescue Scheme is demand-led and targeted at the most vulnerable households. The scheme's financial framework allows for flexibility to direct the available resources to those areas with the greatest demand. This is kept under review based on scheme data published each quarter. The Homes and Communities Agency will report spend through the scheme in the normal way in their annual report for 2009-10.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost to a household of accepting an offer under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been since the scheme's inception; and if he will make a statement. [324155]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency will report spend through the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in the normal way in their annual report for 2009-10.

Non-Domestic Rates: Appeals

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 399W, on non-domestic rates, what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* number of appeals against rateable values, *(b)* number of such appeals which resulted in a reduction in rateable value and *(c)* resulting change in total rateable value in each region in each year from 2009-10 to 2014-15. [323655]

Barbara Follett: No assumptions were made about the number of appeals or the number which resulted in a reduction in rateable value (RV). However, for the

purpose of modelling the 2010 transitional relief scheme, this Department has made an assumption about the total reduction in RV as a result of appeals.

The assumptions used for this modelling are detailed in the consultation document entitled 'The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England'. The methodology and assumptions can be found on page 49 of the consultation. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/ndrrevaluation2010

Parish Councils: Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the recent changes to criteria for value for money audits of town and parish councils; and whether such changes were introduced on the initiative of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Audit Commission. [323359]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have made no assessment of these changes, which have been introduced by the Audit Commission, and which will apply only to those town and parish councils with an annual spend exceeding £1 million.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the amount collected in parking fines in *(a)* Montgomeryshire and *(b)* England in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [323933]

Barbara Follett: The requested information for Montgomeryshire is a matter for Welsh Assembly Government.

For England information, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 240W.

Social Rented Housing: Rents

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1160W, on social rented housing: rents, whether an impact assessment has been prepared for his Department's policy on the convergence of social rents. [323998]

John Healey: Government policy on rent restructuring, established in 2001, was subject to wide-ranging consultation over the summer of 2001. A further public consultation on the treatment of service charges under rent restructuring followed in 2002.

A three-year review of the policy was undertaken in 2004. This was subject to formal consultation including a specific race equality impact assessment. At that time there was no requirement for any other formal impact assessment.

Special Protection Areas: Pets

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 831W, on special protection areas: cats, whether *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Planning Inspectorate and *(c)* the Homes and Communities Agency has provided guidance to local authorities on the imposition of planning conditions in respect of areas with special protection area status to prohibit the keeping of cats and dogs in new housing developments; and if he will direct local authorities to cease the practice of prohibiting the keeping of domestic pets through the imposition of planning conditions. [319183]

Mr. Ian Austin: No. Neither the present model conditions in DoE Circular 11/95 "The Use of Conditions in Planning Permissions", nor those recommended by the Planning Inspectorate, include any conditions on the keeping of animals.

Temporary Accommodation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the number of pregnant women living in temporary accommodation in each year since 1997; [316032]

(2) how many babies were born into households in temporary accommodation in each year since 1997; [316094]

(3) how many *(a)* children and *(b)* babies under 12 months old were living in temporary accommodation in each year since 1997. [316095]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on the number of households in temporary accommodation with dependent children and/or a pregnant woman with no other dependents is available from the end of March 2002 and information on the total number of children (or expected children) in temporary accommodation is available from the end of December 2007; this information is published in Table 6 of the Department's quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website.

Information on the number of babies born in households in temporary accommodation and information on the ages of children living in temporary accommodation is not held centrally.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 671W, on tenancy deposit schemes, whether redacted copies of the contracts between tenancy deposit scheme providers and his Department have been released under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [323886]

Mr. Ian Austin: Yes, redacted copies of the contracts have been made available in response to requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when he plans to answer question 316095, on children in temporary accommodation, tabled on 2 February 2010; [320250]

(2) when he plans to answer question 316094, on households in temporary accommodation, tabled on 2 February 2010; [320251]

(3) when he plans to answer question 316032, on pregnant women in temporary accommodation, tabled on 2 February 2010. [320254]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have replied to the hon. Member's questions.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships were *(a)* started and *(b)* completed by residents of each (i) local authority area and (ii) constituency in each quarter of the last three years. [321696]

Kevin Brennan: Tables 1 to 4 showing the number of apprenticeship starts and framework achievements by local authority and parliamentary constituency for 2005/06 to 2008/09 will be placed in the Library.

Information on the number of Apprenticeship starts and achievements in each academic year is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials at each grade have been employed on work relating to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme since its creation; how much has been allocated by his Department for staff costs for the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [321888]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee has been developed by the Department's Enterprise Directorate SME Finance Team, which has policy responsibility for start-up and growth for small and medium sized enterprises. The team's resources are deployed on a project basis whereby resources follow priority work. Within this team it is estimated three full-time equivalents across the grades (senior civil service to higher executive officer), at a total employment cost of £199,000 per annum, are employed on work relating to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme.

Further Education: Procurement

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the £75 million potential savings identified by the National Audit Office in its report on Improving procurement in further education colleges in England, HC 1632, Session 2005-06, have been realised. [322221]

Kevin Brennan: As part of Spending Review 2004, a £75 million efficiency target was set for the further education sector to be realised through improved procurement practices within colleges. A procurement efficiency programme was established at the Learning and Skills Council, and since its inception, has successfully raised the status of procurement in the sector.

The NAO report 'Improving procurement in further education colleges in England' was published in October 2006, and confirmed the potential within the sector to realise significant procurement efficiencies.

The programme has successfully facilitated and supported a culture which encourages colleges to make good procurement decisions. This has included introduction of procurement solutions where none had previously existed, the removal and/or mitigation of barriers to good procurement behaviour and the establishment of supporting systems and structures.

In the spending period 2005-06 to 2007-08, the programme realised savings of £72.7 million.

Future Large Aircraft

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the agreement finalised on 5 March 2010 between the Government and other European customer nations and EADS/Airbus Military in relation to the A400M military air transporter programme on the *(a)* number of jobs in, *(b)* level of skills in and *(c)* supply chain of the British aerospace sector; whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects of that agreement on other aspects of that sector; and if he will make a statement. [323671]

Ian Lucas: The Department's assessment is that A400M has directly created or secured work for 8,000 people in UK, principally through Airbus, GKN, Messier Dowty and Rolls-Royce; many of which are high-skilled jobs. There is also a primary supply chain to Airbus of around 30 UK based companies. There are 900 people employed directly on A400M at Filton.

On 5 March 2010, agreement in principle on the future of the A400M programme was reached by all parties. We believe that this agreement is positive for employment and skills within the UK.

Higher Education: Admissions

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* places there were available at and *(b)* applications there were to each higher education establishment in London in each academic year from 2005-06 to 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of the number of (i) places available at and (ii) applications to each of those establishments in 2010-11. [323783]

Mr. Lammy: A table detailing the number of accepted applicants and applications to full-time undergraduate courses at each higher education institution (HEI) in Greater London via the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) in each academic year from 2005/06 to 2009/10 will be placed in the libraries of the House.

The number of places available at each institution is not available centrally, so the number of applicants who were successful in gaining a place has been given. 'Applications' in the tables refers to each application that has been made to a course at one of these institutions; applicants could make up to six applications on their UCAS form up to 2007, and up to five from 2008.

The Department does not hold an estimate of the number of places available at each establishment for academic year 2010/11, or the final number of applications or accepted applicants for institutions. The following table, which was published by UCAS, contains the number of applications which had been made by 22 January 2010 for 2010/11 year of entry.

Applications via UCAS to full-time undergraduate courses at higher education institutions in London for 2010/11 year of entry (as at 22 January 2010)

Institution	*Applications*
Brunel University	18,118
Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London	5,239
City University	20,170
Courtauld Institute of Art (University of London)	321
Goldsmiths (University of London)	10,740
Heythrop College (University of London)	524
Imperial College London	14,402
King's College London (University of London)	33,925
Kingston University	36,133
London Metropolitan University	19,296
London School of Economics and Political Science (University of London)	18,368
London South Bank University	16,027
Middlesex University	22,452
Queen Mary, University of London	23,329
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	2,881
Roehampton University	8,239
Rose Bruford College	3,057
Royal Veterinary College (University of London)	1,809
School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London)	4,059
St George's, University of London (formerly St George's Hospital Medical School)	5,402
St Mary's University College, Twickenham	6,082
Thames Valley University	9,139
The School of Pharmacy (University of London)	1,260
University College London (University of London)	33,185
University of East London	15,149
University of Greenwich	23,953
University of London Institute in Paris	98
University of the Arts London	26,478
University of Westminster	19,748
Grand Total	399,583

Source:
UCAS Applications Digest

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 411W, on illegal immigrants, how many staff his Department, its predecessors and its agencies have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320501]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has no record of having employed an illegal immigrant in the last five years.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 4 March 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 1 March 2010, UIN 320501 to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has not appointed any staff who have later been discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 4 March 2010:

The Minister of State, for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to your question regarding the number of staff appointed in The Insolvency Service since 2005 who were later to be found illegal immigrants.

The Insolvency Service has not appointed any staff since 2005 who were later found to be illegal immigrants.

Letter from John Alty, dated 3 March 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 01 March 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office has not employed anyone who has later been discovered to be an illegal immigrant.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 23 March 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (NMO formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 1st March 2010 [reference 2009/1528] to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 3 February 2010, Official Report, column 411Wt on illegal immigrants, how many staff his Department, its predecessor Department and its agencies have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005.

NMO has not had any illegal immigrants working for the Agency in the last five years.

Office of Fair Trading: Telephone Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will request the Office of Fair Trading to use freephone numbers for their public call lines. [321256]

Kevin Brennan: This is an operational matter for the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) which is an independent non-departmental public body (NDPB).

Post Offices: Closures

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post offices have been closed in *(a)* Montgomeryshire and *(b)* England in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [323743]

Mr. McFadden: I have asked the managing director of Post Office Ltd to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: National Lottery

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what procurement process the Post Office followed in selecting Camelot as its partner and agent for the provision of bill payment services; and if he will make a statement. [322904]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* Post Office Ltd has no partnership or agency arrangements with Camelot for the provision of bill payment services.

Sector Skills Development Agency: Public Relations

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments the Sector Skills Development Agency has made to public affairs companies to date. [323969]

Kevin Brennan: The Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA) commenced operations on 1 April 2002 and closed for business on 31 March 2008. During that period the SSDA spent the following on publicity and marketing. This information cannot be broken down further to account for what was paid to public affairs companies.

Publicity and marketing budget

	£000
2002-03	1,709
2003-04	2,647
2004-05	5,469
2005-06	2,724
2006-07	2,578
2007-08	1,502

Students: Disabled

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department and its predecessors have provided to further education colleges to help students with learning disabilities in each of the last three years. [319469]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills allocates funding to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for the provision of further education (FE) and training for adult learners aged 19 and over. For 2008-09 financial year the total LSC adult participation budget was £3.17 billion.

Investing in FE and skills training for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD) remains a priority and we remain committed to maintaining the opportunities for these learners. This means making sure the right level of support is available so that FE colleges and training organisations are able to meet the needs of these learners to access mainstream provision or employment.

There is no separate budget for the delivery of provision for adult learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD). They are supported through a range of provision depending on the level of skills and support they need.

Additional Learning Support (ALS) funding is provided to FE colleges and training organisations to support the additional costs associated with learners with LDD to undertake mainstream provision. It is not possible to disaggregate this information between those who have a learning difficulty or a disability. Investment in ALS for post-19 learners in each of the last three academic years for which information is available (2006/07 to 2008/09) is approximately £160 million. This includes ALS claims recorded on the Individual Learner Record. However, the recording of claims below £5,500 is not a mandatory requirement and some smaller ALS funding will therefore not be included within the figure referred to above.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to grant high-ranking universities more flexibility in relation to the setting of the level of university fees. [323646]

Mr. Lammy: The Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance, which is being led by Lord Browne of Madingley, is currently looking at the balance of contributions to the cost of higher education between students, graduates, taxpayers and employers. The review has recently launched a call for proposals asking for suggestions for the future higher education funding system, and is expected to report by this autumn. It would be inappropriate for me to pre-empt its recommendations.

Teesside Cast Products

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what requests for assistance his Department has received from Corus in relation to Teesside Cast Products. [321881]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have created a fiscal stimulus in areas of public spending that will directly increase demand for steel and feed through the supply chain. Along with its partners in local government and the regions, the Government have brought forward billions of pounds worth of infrastructure spending across the UK.

We also committed £400 million to the car scrappage scheme to underpin the vitally important automotive sector, another very large user of steel. However these measures were aimed at boosting domestic markets more generally and therefore were not specifically targeted at assisting Teesside Cast Products, whose output of slab was sold almost entirely for export.

Corus requested the following assistance from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills in relation to Teesside Cast Products:

Subsidies for short time working—this request was initially made, through the CBI, on 27 November 2008 and was in relation to all Corus UK sites and not just Teesside Cast Products. The Government declined this request on the grounds that we have extensively examined the economic case for UK wage subsidies and concluded that this is not a feasible, cost effective or sustainable option, nor would it guarantee that plants, like Teesside Cast Products would stay open in the long term.

Export subsidies—Coras raised the issue for potential export subsidies in July 2009 to help bridge the gap between cost of producing slab at Teesside Cast Products and the price that could be achieved for the product on the world market. The Government refused this request as export subsidies would be illegal under the EU state aid rules.

Unemployment: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of people in Leeds North West constituency

aged *(a)* between 16 and 18 and *(b)* between 19 and 24 years have not been in education, employment or training in each year since 1997. [319501]

Kevin Brennan: Estimates are available at local education authority (LEA) level for 16 to 24-year-olds[1] not in education, employment or training (NEET), using the Annual Population Survey (APS). These are given from 2000 to 2008 in table 1. Due to small sample sizes we are unable to produce reliable estimates for geographies smaller than LEA, or for small age groups from the APS. Due to incomplete data, estimates are not available prior to 2000.

Please note that the estimates in table 1 are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their confidence intervals[2] (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of +/-3.0 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 3.0 pp above the estimate and 3.0 pp below the estimate.

We are able to provide estimates for 16 to 18-year-olds NEET from records maintained by Connexions services. Table 2 shows the number and percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training in Leeds local authority from 2006 to 2008. These data are not directly comparable with the figures given in table 1 or the annual estimate of the proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET in England published annually by DCSF. Connexions data are not available at this level of detail for years before 2006.

Reliable estimates cannot be provided at parliamentary constituency level for any age grouping from either this data or other sources. No data are available at local authority level for 19 to 24-year-olds.

[1] Age used is the respondents academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

[2] Those given are 95 per cent. confidence intervals.

Table 1: People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training in Leeds LEA

	NEET		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Confidence intervals*
2000	6,000	7.4	+/-3.0
2001	9,000	9.9	+/-3.3
2002	7,000	8.0	+/-3.0
2003	10,000	10.3	+/-3.3
2004	11,000	10.2	+/-3.3
2005	19,000	15.2	+/-3.8
2006	11,000	9.7	+/-3.3
2007	16,000	13.1	+/-3.6
2008	20,000	15.5	+/-3.7

Note:
Data for 2000 to 2003 are from the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey, the predecessor to the Annual Population Survey, and covers the period from March of the given year to the following February.
Source:
Annual Population Survey

Table 2: People aged 16 to 18 not in education, employment or training in Leeds LA

	NEET	
	Number	*Percentage*
2006	2,170	9.1
2007	2,380	10.0
2008	2,320	9.5

Notes:
1. Estimates are an average of the figures provided to Connexions at the end of November, December and January. They include all young people known to Connexions who were aged 16, 17 or 18 on these dates.
2. The number of 16 to 18-year-olds known to Connexions includes those whose education establishment is located in the local authority area, regardless of where the young person resides.
3. 16 to 18-year-olds known to be undertaking a gap year, or in custody, are not recorded by Connexions as NEET.
4. The number and percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET have been adjusted to assume a proportion of those whose current activity is not known are NEET.
5. The figures above cannot be compared with DCSF's headline measure of proportion of young people NEET. The headline measure uses a range of data from different sources to estimate the proportion of the population that is NEET, and relate to the young person's academic age.

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which Minister approved the decision to classify the audit reports of the Union Modernisation Fund as commercially confidential. [323950]

Mr. McFadden: The audit reports are prepared using the standard terms of engagement for independent accountants involved in the verification of public sector grant claims. These terms were agreed between the Government and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

My hon. Friend the Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe), the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment Relations, announced the Government's response to the public consultation on how the Union Modernisation Fund should operate and the intention to use the standard terms of engagement agreed with the ICAEW for the administration of the Union Modernisation Fund.

Unite

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of the Unite trade union in the last 12 months. [323955]

Mr. McFadden: In the last 12 months my noble Friend the Secretary of State has met Unite representatives on four occasions, my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Postal Affairs and Employment Relations has met them four times, my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination twice, my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs four times, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Regulatory Reform four times, my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, South (Ian Pearson), the then Economic and Business Minister three times and I have met them four times.

Details of the meetings in the last quarter of 2009 can be found on the Department's website at the following link and this will be updated successively after each quarter:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/foi/foi-ministerial-meetings-oct-dec-2009.pdf

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 25 March 2010

SCOTLAND

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324555]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not have any gym facilities.

WALES

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324552]

Mr. Hain: No.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to questions in the formulation "if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997" could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323875]

Mr. Hain: When deciding whether a response to a parliamentary question is likely to incur disproportionate cost my staff consult the relevant Cabinet Office guidance, paragraphs 7.26 - 7.31.

Rape Complaints Review

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with his ministerial colleagues on matters on which there will be co-operation between his Department and the Welsh Assembly Government in implementing the recommendations of the Stern Review of Rape Reporting in England and Wales. [323637]

Mr. Hain: It is important to make clear that Baroness Stern's Review of Rape Reporting recognises that there has been real progress made to tackle sexual violence in our society. However, it also recognises that more still needs to be done and the UK Government are carefully considering the report and its twenty three recommendations to determine the best way forward. We will be establishing an action plan to address the issues raised by Baroness Stern and will be discussing this plan with all stakeholders, including the Welsh Assembly Government.

I, and my office, remain committed to ensuring that all parties continue to co-operate and build upon the good foundations that have already been laid; and that we continue to support victims, challenge attitudes and further improve the response of the criminal justice system and health service.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to questions in the formulation "if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Members' constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997" could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323870]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) seeks to answer all parliamentary questions that do not incur disproportionate cost. Disproportionate cost is determined via a disproportionate cost threshold (DCT). The current DCT is £800, announced in Parliament by the Treasury on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission: Pay

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was paid in bonuses to staff of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission in each for the last five years. [322995]

Paul Goggins: The amount paid in bonuses to staff of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission in each for the last five years was as follows:

	£
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	5,421
2008-09	3,056
2009-10	7,306

DEFENCE

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date his Department's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee last met. [323210]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee last met on 20 March 2007. The work of the Committee duplicates the work of the Home Office in regulating animal welfare, which the MOD fully complies with.

Armed Forces: Eyesight

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make it his policy that applicants to the armed forces will not be rejected on the grounds that they have previously undergone laser eye surgery; and if he will make a statement; [324338]

(2) whether members of the armed forces who have had laser eye surgery to achieve the required level of sight attainment are allowed to continue in service. [324339]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following methods of surgical correction of myopia or hypermetropia are considered suitable for entry on an individual, case by case basis for non-specialist employment groups and subject to single service requirements:

Photorefractive keratectomy (PRK)

Laser epithelial keratomileusis (LASEK)

Laser in-situ keratomileusis (LASIK)

Intrastromal corneal rings (ICRs), otherwise known as intrastromal corneal segments (ICSs)

Recruits must fulfil certain criteria, including that at least 12 months have elapsed since the last procedure, that there are no significant visual side effects, and that refraction has stabilised.

Entry will not be considered for radial keratotomy (RK), or astigmatic keratotomy (AK), or any other form of incisional refractive surgery, other than those procedures listed above. All invasive intraocular surgical procedures remain a bar to entry.

The methods of surgical correction of myopia listed above for recruits may be considered suitable for serving personnel on an individual, case by case basis.

However, potential complications of the procedure may result in them being re-graded at a lower level of fitness, and significant deterioration in vision may require them to be re-graded as undeployable.

Exceptions to the above general policy apply in the case of some specialist employment groups, most notably aircrew. Aircrew are normally recruited before ocular maturity and at an age when Corneal Refractive Surgery (CRS) may not provide long-term refractive stability. Furthermore, the long-term outcome of CRS in trained aircrew needs to be evaluated before considering the procedure for potential aircrew. Therefore, candidates for recruitment to the armed forces as aircrew who have had CRS are rejected. There are no current plans to change this policy.

Serving aircrew in all three services are permitted to undertake certain forms of CRS currently including PRK or LASEK corrective surgery, with the consent and support of medical officers.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body: Service Medical and Dental Officers: Supplement to the 38th Report 2009, what the shortfall was in regular service *(a)* medical officers and *(b)* orthopaedic and trauma surgeon officers for the (i) Royal Navy, (ii) Royal Air Force and (iii) Army, on the latest date for which figures are available. [322865]

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many trained orthopaedic surgeon *(a)* regulars and *(b)* reservists are (i) employed and (ii) required in each armed service. [323226]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Detailed data will no longer be published where this would highlight potential pinch points within the armed forces, including the Defence Medical Services. I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

In order to maintain appropriate external scrutiny of such data, the Department will continue to provide comprehensive manning data to the House of Commons Defence Committee on a confidential basis.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many complaints were received by Modern Housing Solutions on the maintenance of service accommodation in Windsor in each of the last 12 months: [323679]

(2) what defects there are in service family accommodation at *(a)* Calvary Crescent, *(b)* Broom Farm Estate and *(c)* Gratton Drive in Windsor; and what the (i) timetable and (ii) budget is for repairs to each; [323680]

(3) how often Modern Housing Solutions carries out customer satisfaction surveys; and when Modern Housing Solutions last conducted customer satisfaction surveys in Windsor; [323682]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effects of Modern Housing Solutions on the level of maintenance of service family accommodation. [323683]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Housing Prime Contract (HPC), which covers the maintenance and repair of some 45,000 Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties in England and Wales, has been delivered by Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) since 2006.

MHS provides a comprehensive service and continues to show a sustained level of performance against contractual targets. Over the last 12 months the following percentage of emergency, urgent and routine repairs were completed within the agreed contractual timescales.

Repair type	*Agreed timescale*	*Percentage completed in timescale*
Emergency	Attend within three hours	99
Urgent	Attend within five working days	85
Routine	Attend within 20 working days	91

The HPC streamlines the number of contracts and the supply chain, provides consistent processes and standards, allows for a single set of management data to assess performance, and the introduction of a 24-hour 365-day free phone helpdesk to provide a single point of contact for occupants.

MHS regularly surveys occupants by phone, via its website and through the completion of written questionnaires. Over the last 12 months, some 94 per cent. of occupants surveyed were satisfied with the service provided by the helpdesk and over 90 per cent. with the repair and maintenance service.

A breakdown by location of the number of complaints received, the level of customer satisfaction, the time taken to complete repair jobs and the budget or actual cost in each case cannot be readily identified from the overall data.

A list of all defects reported for SFA at the requested locations in Windsor is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average time taken was to make repairs to forces accommodation in Windsor after a call out in the most recent period for which figures are available. [323681]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information relating to the longest, shortest and average time period taken to make repairs to accommodation in Windsor can be ascertained but will take more time to collate and verify. I will write to the hon. Member.

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many complaints have been received by Modern Housing Solutions in respect of its work at RAF Benson in each of the last 24 months; [324179]

(2) what performance indicators have been set for Modern Housing Solutions in respect of its work on defence properties; and what assessment his Department has made of its performance against these targets in the last 12 months; [324184]

(3) what assessment has been made of the performance of Modern Housing Solutions in relation to its work at RAF Benson in the last 12 months. [324185]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) undertake a wide variety of repair and maintenance work on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Key performance indicators relate to agreed contractual timescales for repairs. MHS are required to attend all emergency repairs within three hours and to make safe within 24 hours, to attend all urgent repairs within five working days and all routine repairs within 20 working days.

MHS regularly publish details of their performance against these and other targets on their website under 'Progress Info for Occupants':

www.modernhousingsolutions.com

In addition, MOD staff in Defence Estate, MHS and Station representatives meet at RAF Benson on a regular basis to review overall performance and any issues or areas, concerns or problems with specific locations would be discussed at that time.

While MHS record all complaints received, a breakdown by location cannot be readily identified from the overall data.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the applicability of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 to widows who remarry and are subsequently divorced *(a)* under Scottish law and *(b)* in the rest of the UK. [323589]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The applicability of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 to widows who remarry, and are subsequently divorced does not differentiate between Scottish law and the rest of the United Kingdom.

In order for an earlier pension, which has ceased due to remarriage, to restart the separation must be recognised in legal terms as divorced, dissolved or widowed and those administering the scheme with the authority of the Defence Council must be satisfied that the pension should become payable to the beneficiary for reasons of hardship.

Armed Forces: Rail Travel

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the class of fare to be used by officers of the rank of general and equivalent on rail journeys. [323644]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Officers who hold the paid rank of OF3 (Lieutenant Commander, Major or Squadron Leader) and above, when travelling on duty, are entitled to travel first class.

However, restrictions are currently in place and regardless of entitlement, rail travel should be standard class, not first class. The exception, to be authorised by line managers, is if by booking ahead a first class fare can be obtained for less than the flexible standard fare.

Armed Forces: USA

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what international agreements govern weaponry held by US Visiting Forces at bases in the UK. [323336]

Bill Rammell: The storage of US munitions on bases made available to the US Visiting Force is governed by a UK/US Memorandum of Agreement dated October 1997, entitled "The Import, Export, Transportation, Safety, Security, Storage and Disposal of US Explosives and Weapons in the UK and the Approval, Use and Safety of Ground Ranges".

Cluster Munitions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Morley and Rothwell of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 25W, on cluster munitions, whether agreement has yet been reached with US Visiting Forces on removal of cluster munitions stored at US bases in the UK. [323333]

Bill Rammell: Since the UK adopted the convention on cluster munitions in May 2008 there have been ongoing discussions with the US with regard to their cluster munition stockpiles and necessity of having stockpiles on UK territory. The US has identified the

cluster munitions on UK territory as exceeding their worldwide operational planning requirements. Baroness Kinnock during the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill Second Reading in the House of Lords on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1020, announced that these cluster munitions will be removed from sites in the UK in 2010 and from all UK territories by 2013.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what US cluster munitions are stored at US bases in the UK. [323334]

Bill Rammell: The United States stores various weapons in the UK. The US inventory of weapons is declared annually to the Ministry of Defence who ensure that all weapons are appropriately licensed and stored. It would be inappropriate to disclose the numbers, types and locations of such weapons. Therefore, I am withholding the detailed information as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and another state.

However, I can confirm that the US has identified their cluster munitions on UK territory as exceeding their worldwide operational planning requirements. Therefore, these cluster munitions will be removed from sites in the UK in 2010 and from all UK territories by 2013, as declared by Baroness Kinnock during the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill Second Reading in the House of Lords on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1020.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what date all US cluster munitions will have been removed from the UK. [323335]

Bill Rammell: The US has identified the cluster munitions on UK territory as exceeding their worldwide operational planning requirements. Baroness Kinnock during the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill Second Reading in the House of Lords on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1020, announced that these cluster munitions will be removed from sites in the UK in 2010 and from all UK territories by 2013.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of UK cluster munitions in service on 30 May 2008 have been destroyed. [323337]

Bill Rammell: The only UK cluster munitions in service on 30 May 2008 were the Extended Range Bomblet Shell (ERBS) L20A1 M85 and the CRV-7 Multi-Purpose Sub Munition (MPSM). All other UK cluster munitions were withdrawn from service prior to this date.

Destruction of the CRV-7 MPSMs was completed in July 2009. We are in the process of competing the contract for the disposal of the ERBS L20A1 M85s and these are therefore awaiting destruction.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many smoking shelters have been built for his Department's staff in the last five years; and at what cost. [324352]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324674]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests for information as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 were received by his Department in 2009; and how many of those requests *(a)* received a full response within 40 working days and *(b)* remain outstanding. [319185]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Statistics on requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 are published by the Ministry of Justice. Statistics for the quarter 1 October to 31 December 2009, and annual statistics for 2009, will be published by the Ministry of Justice on 29 April 2010. Releasing these statistics before this date would contravene the provisions of the Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Order which came into effect on 1 December 2008.

Statistics for the first three quarters of 2009 have been published by the Ministry of Justice, and relevant extracts are shown in the table. Information is collected on the number of requests which receive a response within the statutory response time of 20 working days, those which receive a response within permitted extensions to this period ("in time"), and those which have not been answered at the time of reporting to the Ministry of Justice. Information on the number of responses sent within 40 working days is not collected and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

2009

Period	*Requests received*	*Full response sent within 20 working days*	*Full response sent "in time"*	*Response outstanding at time of reporting*
January to March	758	477	27	133
April to June	670	428	31	137
July to September	766	307	70	306

Departmental Press Releases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press releases his Department has issued in the last 12 months. [322555]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The central MOD Media and Communications unit records press releases by calendar year and in 2009 issued 296 press releases.

Records of press releases issued from other areas of the Department are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to questions in the formulation if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997 could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323861]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The disproportionate cost threshold, which is the advisory cost limit at which Departments can refuse to answer a written PQ, is £800. It is calculated by reference to the cost to the Department of those involved in answering the question, specifically the personnel costs calculated on hourly rates. Answering questions of this formulation did not exceed this level.

Ex-servicemen: Prisoners

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what methodology his Department used to estimate the number of veterans in prison in England and Wales; whether *(a)* reservists, *(b)* people serving before 1979, *(c)* people whose date of birth was unavailable, *(d)* persons whose first name was unavailable, *(e)* under 18 year olds, *(f)* females who had changed their name following marriage and *(g)* persons with aliases were included in his Department's estimate; and what the prison population was on the date on which the data on veterans in the prison system were extracted. [323774]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1067-68W.

Group 4 Securicor

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 13W, on Group 4 Securicor, what discussions his Department's officials have had with Group 4 Securicor on outsourcing services referred to in the unprinted paper reported to the House by the Defence Committee on 10 February 2010; and if he will make a statement. [324442]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 14W.

Gurkhas: Immigration

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which Gurkha veterans' charities his Department has met to discuss implementation of the Government's policy on the settlement of ex-Gurkhas; [324097]

(2) which Gurkha charities have received funding from his Department following the decision to grant ex-Gurkhas UK settlement rights; and how much such funding each of those charities has received. [324098]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has met with a number of service charities to discuss the mechanisms put in place to support those Gurkha veterans and their dependants who decide to come to settle in the UK under the new immigration rules. These meetings included the Gurkha Welfare Trust, which is the only charity established specifically for the relief of poverty and distress among Gurkha ex-servicemen of the British Crown and their dependants in Nepal. The Ministry of Defence has provided an annual grant to the Gurkha Welfare Trust since it was established in 1969. This grant, which currently amounts to just over £1 million per year, contributes towards the administrative costs of the trust's field arm operating in Nepal, the Gurkha Welfare Scheme.

RAF Coningsby

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the provision of the fast jet test and evaluation advice was transferred from Boscombe Down Airfield to RAF Coningsby. [322788]

Bill Rammell: The transfer of most fast jet test flying and some evaluation activities, including 11 military and three QinetiQ posts, from Boscombe Down to RAF Coningsby is expected to result in a range of time, cost and performance benefits across Defence, including the more efficient use of flying hours, and an enhanced ability to meet the requirements of the front-line user, through the integration of developmental and operational test and evaluation activity.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on translation services by her Department in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the UK in each of the last five years. [324418]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP provides a range of language translation services for customers across Great Britain (as Northern Ireland is excluded), namely:

1. Face to face.
2. Telephone.
3. Translating by a range of services which includes the translation of departmental information leaflets and other documents that are provided to customers in a range of ethnic languages, audio and Braille, as well as all publications for Welsh-speaking customers living in Wales.
4. We are also able to offer an ad-hoc service to convert documents into Easy Read format. Spend for Easy Read has in the past been included within other category spend and so cannot be identified without incurring disproportionate cost.

The contractual arrangements for the services have been developed over a number of years and as a result spend has not been applicable for some of these services in each of the last five years or data have not been able to be gathered for spend during some years. Disproportionate cost would be incurred in trying to identify such spend.

We are unable to identify spend for specific geographic areas, such as the Ribble Valley and Lancashire, without incurring disproportionate cost.

The total spend information is given in the following table:

Type of translation service	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	£ 2008-09
Face to face and telephone	2,967,756	3,443,334	4,496,008	3,515,722	3,761,765
Ethnic document translation	n/a	120,720	267,500	134,945	[1]459,554
Welsh	30,855	20,766	50,759	65,789	66,755
Braille	n/a	n/a	n/a	45,309	59,522
Audio	n/a	n/a	n/a	35,572	33,397
Easy Read	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	2,998,611	3,584,820	4,814,267	3,797,337	4,380,993

n/a = not available without incurring disproportionate cost as data not held centrally or is combined within other category data and not possible to separate.
[1] This figure includes all translation spend for the International Pensions Centre (IPC) which previously was not held centrally—total £381,370.59 for 2008-09.

Foreign Workers: EU Countries

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place to ensure the compliance with health and safety requirements of workers from EU member states working in the UK. [324096]

Jonathan Shaw: Under UK health and safety legislation, employers must provide a safe and healthy working environment for all workers under their control, including those from EU member states. Any workers from EU member states working as self-employed will also be subject to these requirements. Workers must take reasonable care for their own and others' health and safety at work, and cooperate with their employer to enable compliance. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and local authorities are responsible for enforcing the requirements in the majority of UK workplaces, and use inspection, investigation, enforcement, advice and guidance to secure compliance.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 853-56W, on pensioners: social security benefits, what the average monetary value of benefits in kind provided to *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples in York in respect of: (i) NHS services, (ii) social services, (iii) travel concessions, (iv) television licences, (v) insulation and home repairs and improvement grants and (vi) other services has been for periods later than those given in that answer for which information is available. [321694]

Angela Eagle: A wide range of services and benefits in kind are available to older people and these are administered both centrally and locally. As a result, the information is not available in the format requested: some information is not collected and some could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The information which is available is given as follows.

(i) NHS services

People aged 60 and over are able to claim free prescriptions and eye tests on the grounds of age. Detailed information on prescription charges is not held in the format requested.

In financial year 2008-09, 90,380 free NHS sight tests were given to people aged 60 and over within the North Yorkshire and York PCT area, costing an estimated £1,789,524.

There is no automatic entitlement for adult pensioners to NHS optical vouchers or free dental treatment. Individuals may qualify for these benefits if they are in receipt of certain qualifying benefits, or if they have been assessed as eligible for assistance under the NHS Low Income Scheme. Information on the value of such NHS services provided to patients of pensionable age who qualify on the basis of their personal economic circumstances is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(ii) Social services

The gross current expenditure by York council on social services for people aged 65 or over for the financial year 2008-09 was £30.8 million[1].

(iii) Travel concessions

The statutory minimum travel concession, introduced in April 2008, gives those aged 60 or over and eligible disabled people free off-peak local bus travel in any part of England. The Government provide around £1 billion a year to fund the concession.

Travel concession schemes are provided through local authorities, which have flexibility to enhance their schemes to offer more than the statutory minimum, so there are local variations in what is offered and take-up of concessionary travel also varies from one area to another. Therefore it is not possible to quantify the value of the benefit in kind in a specific local authority area.

(iv) Television licences

Free television licences for people aged 75 or over were introduced in November 2000. TV Licensing, who administer free licences as agents for the BBC, are not able to provide geographical breakdowns of licences issued. However, figures are available for the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over receiving winter fuel payments in York local authority. These people would be eligible for a free television licence. 12,180 households received winter fuel payments in York local authority in the year 2008-09.

The television licence fee for the year 2009-10 is £142.50 for a colour television licence, and £48.00 for a black and white television licence.

(v) Insulation

The Warm Front Scheme is the Government's main programme for tackling fuel poverty in vulnerable households in the private sector in England. Warm Front provides grants for heating, insulation and energy efficiency measures. For the year 2009-10, 132 single pensioner households and 100 two-pensioner households received Warm Front assistance in the York local authority area, and the average spend on each of those households was £1,870.08 and £1,675.20 respectively.

[1] *Source:*

RO3 and PSS EX1 returns.

Note:

Gross expenditure includes income from client contributions, but excludes capital charges and certain income items which count as expenditure elsewhere in the public sector, such as contributions from primary care trusts. This is to avoid double counting within the aggregate public sector accounts of the money involved.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her latest estimate is of the monetary value of benefits paid fraudulently to prisoners in each of the last five years. [316399]

Helen Goodman: Fraud can occur when a person is sent to prison and they do not notify the Department. If this is the case there can be a short delay before benefit payments are stopped.

The Department matches its data with that held by the Ministry of Justice to identify prisoners who may still be in receipt of benefit. This data match now takes place weekly instead of four-weekly and we are detecting prisoner fraud more quickly than ever before, thus reducing the size of any overpayments.

Over the last five years this type of fraud has only arisen in income support. Fraudulent overpayments to prisoners have remained consistently low accounting for no more than an estimated 0.1 per cent of income support benefit expenditure.

The available information is in the table.

Estimated overpayments due to fraud by prisoners in each of the last five years

	Amount of income support overpaid[1] (£ million)
2004-05[2]	6
2005-06	4
2006-07	7
2007-08	4
2008-09	6

[1] Estimates of customer fraud committed by prisoners are collated and published only for income support, jobseeker's allowance and pension credit. The levels for jobseeker's allowance and pension credit were £0 million in each of the last five years.

[2] Improvements to the methodology were introduced in 2005-06 which created a discontinuity between the estimates up to 2004-05 and from 2005-06 onwards. Therefore comparisons over time should be made with caution.

Source:

Published National Statistics Reports—Fraud and Error in the Benefit System.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Government Equalities Office in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322086]

Michael Jabez Foster: Over the past 12 months the Government Equalities Office has recorded two items as missing. The first item was a laptop with an estimated value of £2,000. The laptop cannot be used without a security key, which was not lost. The second item was a set of blank travel tickets with a nominal value of £4,000, which in practice could not have been used by others.

The Government Equalities Office has not recorded any items as stolen.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for the Government Equalities Office. [322579]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) will be publishing its staff survey results as soon as practicable. Given the Department's small size, we need to give full and careful consideration to ensure in publishing results that individuals cannot be identified. Once the results are published on the GEO website, we will ensure a copy is placed in the Library.

Equality Bill

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what representations she has received on the ways in which the provisions of the Equality Bill affect the rights of the individual in respect of freedom of religion. [323479]

Michael Jabez Foster: My officials, colleagues and I have received a number of representations on a range of issues from both individuals and religion and belief organisations since the introduction of the Equality Bill in April last year.

The main issues raised were:

whether the Bill curbed religious freedom of expression;

restriction of freedom of conscience;

a perceived hierarchy of rights where some protected characteristics take precedence over the rights of the religious;

Catholic adoption agencies;

the occupational requirement employment exception for organised religion; and

faith-based care homes.

Such discussions and representations are ongoing as it is always important for Government to maintain a dialogue.

International Women's Day

Anne Main: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what plans the Government have to mark International Women's Day. [320953]

Maria Eagle: The Government are marking International Women's Day in a number of ways:

a breakfast meeting at No. 10 with women executives on 8 March;

a Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar Reception (10 March); and

a Parliamentary topical debate marking International Women's day in the House of Commons on 11 March; and

a reception for International Women's Day at No. 10 hosted by Sarah Brown on 18 March.

In addition, individual Departments undertook the following to coincide with International Women's Day:

The Government Equalities Office published:

'What the Government has done for women' factsheet;

'Women's Representation' factsheet:

Research report and findings on public attitudes to the representation of women in business and Government:

Government's Response to the Speaker's Conference; and

Report on the regional 'Women in Focus' events which promoted best practice in diverting women from crime (with Ministry of Justice).

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office:

Welcomed the appointment of Minister of State, Baroness Kinnock, as Women's Officer. Baroness Kinnock will be responsible for leading the Government's work to tackle violence against women overseas. These are in addition to her responsibilities as Minister of State.

Published a newly developed poster and leaflet designed to raise awareness of FGM. A new e-mail address has also been set up (fgm@fco.gov.uk) for those who have concerns or questions about FGM to use.

The Department for Schools, Children and Families:

Published the report of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Advisory Group and the Government's response, including plans to revise training for new teachers and to include VAWG issues in the PHSE curriculum for 2011.

The Home Office:

Announced that a series of laws to protect vulnerable women by reducing the demand for prostitution, including the police no longer having to show kerb-crawlers are "persistent" before arresting them, will come into effect on 1 April.

Held an internal ministerial event on delivering the Gender Equality duty with stakeholders.

The Department for International Development (DFID):

Welcomed Andrea Cornwall, Director of the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme, to DFID to share key research findings. Pathways is an international research and communications programme that links academics, activists and practitioners across the globe to explore ways to enhance women's empowerment.

Screened video clips giving ground level insights and testimonials from women in Ghana and posted these on the DFID website.

Ellen Wratten, Director of Policy and Head of Profession for Social Development at DFID, will be giving a presentation at Plan International's celebration in Westminster Hall on 8 March on the new joint DFID/NIKE Foundation 'Girl Hub' programme that focuses on empowering adolescent girls in developing countries.

PRIME MINISTER

Charlie Whelan

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister on what date Charlie Whelan first attended his morning meetings at Downing street; and how many such meetings he has attended since that date. [324187]

The Prime Minister: I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Intelligence and Security Committee

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the contribution of the Chairman of the Intelligence and Security Committee of 18 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 997, on Intelligence and Security Committee, if he will hold discussions with the Chairman on whether the Committee's staff have had their own careers put in jeopardy; and if he will make a statement. [324282]

The Prime Minister: I have met and corresponded with the ISC and its Chairman on several occasions over the past year to discuss a range of matters of mutual interest, and will continue to do so.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Nurseries

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) when the application for planning permission for change of use in connection with the proposed creation of a day nursery at 1 Parliament Street was submitted; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the application; [324260]

(2) when the application for listed building consent in connection with the proposed creation of a day nursery at 1 Parliament street was submitted; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the application. [324263]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave on 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 170W.

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the extent to which charges for places in the proposed day nursery at 1 Parliament street will meet the costs of its provision; and what the weekly subsidy per place is for which the Commission has budgeted in 2010-11. [324261]

Nick Harvey: The commercial competition for a nursery operator is currently in progress which will provide information relevant to the operating costs for the nursery. In order to avoid undermining the House's position in the commercial competition, it is not possible to disclose any further information at this stage. According to childcare experts, there is likely to be a build up of usage over a period: the average use of the first 12 months of a new nursery is likely to be around 40 per cent. The intention in the longer term is to recover the full operating costs through the charges made to users.

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the closing date is for the receipt of tenders from day nursery operators for the contract to run a day nursery at 1 Parliament Street; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the specification for the contract. [324264]

Nick Harvey: The deadline for the receipt of tenders from nursery operators was Friday 19 March 2010. A copy of the specification for the contract will be placed in the Library.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much freight is planned to be transferred by water to the main Olympic site in each of the next 12 months. [323340]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is committed to transporting 50 per cent. of materials to the Park, by weight, using sustainable methods, i.e. rail or water. The ODA is currently exceeding this target with almost 64 per cent. of material transported to the Park by sustainable methods.

The ODA will continue to actively encourage its supply chain to utilise rail and water facilities. While it is not within the ODA's remit to stipulate how many deliveries should be made to the Olympic Park by its supply chain, it is expected that there will be at least three barge movements per week as fit out work on the venues increases.

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans she has for development of the wharf at the main Olympic site. [323341]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) constructed a temporary wharf on Waterworks river for the construction phase of the programme to provide contractors with the opportunity to move material into and out of the Park by water. It is currently intended that this temporary wharf will be decommissioned in the spring of 2011. However, the ODA is currently exploring potential usages for sections of the Wharf during the games and this work is ongoing.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colombia: Human Rights

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of bodies in the mass grave recently discovered in La Macarena, Colombia. [324176]

Chris Bryant: The mass graves in La Macarena were first brought to the attention of our embassy in Bogota in November 2009.

Our ambassador asked the Colombian Government, namely Carlos Franco, Director of the Presidential Human Rights Programme in Colombia, for information on the alleged mass graves. We received a reply on 16 February 2010, which I shared with Carolina Hoyos, a human rights activist whom I met on 16 March. According to Mr. Franco there are 650 corpses properly identified in their graves buried during the last 20 years. There are approximately 350 corpses not identified during the same 20 years. The burial of non-identified people at La Macarena's cemetery has been properly registered in the control books kept by the municipal authorities and the officers in charge of the cemetery's administration. We will continue to monitor developments in the investigation into these mass graves.

I was dismayed to learn of the killing of Mr. Hurtado in the La Macarena region, who was President of the Human Rights committee of La Catalina. Our ambassador in Bogota raised Mr. Hurtado's assassination with the Director of the Presidential Human Rights Programme and the Head of the International Relations Unit at the Colombian Prosecutor's Office.

Conflict Resolution

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Government funding is available for assistance to coexistence projects in other countries. [323628]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: For the current financial year (2009-10) the UK has provided over £100,000 of financial support to promote coexistence projects in Israel. The Government will look to fund several projects which will promote human rights in Israel in the next financial year. We cannot, as yet, confirm how much will be allocated to coexistence projects next financial year.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist coexistence education projects in Israel. [323629]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK has provided financial support to educational projects which promote co-existence between Jewish and Arab children in Israel.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department is providing to projects to promote a shared society between Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel. [323630]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have spent over £100,000 in the current financial year to support projects and organisations that develop co-existence between Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on equality between Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel. [323632]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK regularly raises concerns regarding equality issues. I discussed the issue of Israeli minorities in a meeting with the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister on 9 February. We also highlighted the issue in the 2009 Foreign and Commonwealth Office Annual Report on Human Rights, which was published on 17 March.

Poland: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the defacing of monuments at the former Plaszow concentration camp near Krakow on Saturday 13 March 2010; what recent discussions he has had with the government of Poland on anti-Semitism in Poland; and if he will make a statement. [324377]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We condemn the act of vandalism against the monuments at the former Plaszow concentration camp and all instances of persecution and discrimination against individuals and groups wherever they occur.

Polish politicians have spoken out strongly against this act. Polish Foreign Minister Sikorkski said:

"The people who did this deserve the highest condemnation. This is something which ruins Poland and which I personally am ashamed of."

Polish Cardinal Dziwish has apologised to Jewish people on behalf of all Christians for what happened.

Our embassy in Warsaw was in touch with non-governmental organisations and relevant Government representatives that deal with and monitor anti-Semitism on 16 April 2009. The Polish Government highlighted some of their initiatives in their interim report, responding to a 2007 memorandum, to the Council of Europe Commissioner for human rights. This can be found on the Commissioner's website:

http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/News/2009/090420PolandReport_en.asp

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324565]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does provide subsidised gym facilities for its staff.

Departmental Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to Baroness Warsi of 17 March 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 188WA, on Government Departments: consultancy services, which public affairs company provided the administrative support to the All-Party Horticultural Working Group with funding from the Royal Parks Agency. [324621]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Bellenden Public Affairs provided support to the All-Party Horticultural Working Group with funding from the Royal Parks Agency.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department and its agencies have incurred any expenditure on Google Adwords in the last 12 months. [323967]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department and its agencies have not incurred any expenditure on Google Adwords in the last 12 months.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's policy is on the use by its officials of computers for recreational web browsing *(a)* at lunchtimes and *(b)* other normal working hours; and for what reasons access to tobacco-related websites is blocked. [323975]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department's policy on internet usage is as follows:

Do not access the internet during working hours for purposes other than those for which you are employed. Any personal use should be limited, carried out in non-working hours and should not interfere with the performance of your duties nor with the Department's IT/networking systems and services.

Access to tobacco-related websites is blocked because they have no relevance to the work of the Department.

Ofcom: Standards

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he takes to monitor the performance of Ofcom; and if he will make a statement. [323565]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The Office of Communications (Ofcom) is the regulator and competition authority for the UK communications industries. Ministers do not monitor Ofcom's performance because the regulator is independent of Government and is accountable directly to Parliament. Ofcom is required to report annually to Parliament through the annual plan and report and accounts.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Commercial Waste

14. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to review arrangements for the collection of commercial waste following its recent redefinition. [324062]

Dan Norris: A change in the definition of municipal waste will not alter local authority responsibilities on commercial waste. The vast majority of commercial waste is managed by the private sector and we do not expect this to change. However, we do want to promote more sorting and recycling of commercial waste and have a number of measures in place including funding for pilot trade waste recycling points and collection schemes.

Bovine Tuberculosis

17. **Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made in tackling the spread of bovine tuberculosis. [324067]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Veterinary Medicines Directorate yesterday issued an authorisation for a tuberculosis vaccine for use in badgers. This has been made possible by the hard work of the researchers at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency and the Food and Environment Research Agency and reflects 10 years and £11 million of DEFRA-funded research and development. This injectable vaccine will be used in the Badger Vaccine Deployment Project to commence in six areas in England from July.

Recommendations from the October 2009 progress report of the TB Eradication Group for England have been implemented, including enhanced TB surveillance and control and additional support to farmers under TB restrictions.

Common Fisheries Policy

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's objectives are for the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy; and if he will make a statement. [324065]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK's response to the Commission's Green Paper on reform of the Common Fisheries Policy sets out our objectives to achieve prosperous, sustainable exploitation of fish stocks. This response makes clear that there must be more regionalised decision-making; genuine integration of fisheries with other marine policies; longer-term management planning; greater flexibility and certainty in the system; and a mechanism to ease the transition to a sustainable and profitable future.

Lost Life Report

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take in response to Natural England's report, Lost life. [324070]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Our plans are already set out in "Conserving Biodiversity—the UK Approach". We have set targets to 2020 to increase the range and populations of priority species and the extent and quality of priority habitats.

Drains

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the Environment Agency has not introduced its General Binding Rules in England and Wales to prevent the abuse of the drainage system from non-agricultural, commercial and domestic industries in accordance with its original timetable. [323844]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Following DEFRA's consultation on non-agricultural diffuse pollution in 2007, we made a decision to progress each policy option separately. For example, we have recently consulted on options for legislative mechanisms to control phosphates in domestic laundry cleaning products in the UK. We have also proposed a requirement for developers to consider sustainable drainage systems for surface water for all new developments in the Flood and Water Management Bill.

As part of this, the use of a legislative approach based on general binding rules (GBRs) is another of the options which we are developing. While we are not in a position to hold a consultation in the near future, as policy develops and further evidence of the impact of GBRs is gathered, we may hold a consultation. To commit to any policy on further development of GBRs we must be confident that any action would be of benefit to the environment, and that the economic and social impacts of the action are assessed.

More information about policy work is available on our website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/waterquality/diffuse/non-agri/index.htm

Food Supply: Government Assistance

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist the food industry in the current economic climate. [324059]

Hilary Benn: Government are taking a number of steps to support the UK food industry which is our biggest manufacturing sector, including the Food 2030 Strategy, more investment in research and development, consulting on a supermarket ombudsman, the agri-skills plan and the work of the task forces to assist the pig sector and to encourage more production and consumption of fruit and vegetables.

Gangmasters

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review the effectiveness of legislation on gangmasters. [324055]

Dan Norris: I am content that the Gangmasters Licensing Act 2004 provides an effective regulatory framework, allowing the Gangmasters Licensing Authority to take a robust approach in enforcing its provisions.

We have recently laid revised regulations which clarify when a licence is required and correct an anomaly in the application of the Gangmasters Licensing (Exclusions) Regulations 2006 which was identified following recent representations made by my hon. Friend.

Marine Conservation Zones

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the minimum conservation objective for marine conservation zones will be; [323887]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effectiveness of the establishment of marine conservation zones in protecting the full range of biodiversity in UK waters. [323888]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK has and is making progress in reducing its environmental footprint in the marine area.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are an integral part of our comprehensive marine policy. We are committed to designating enough MPAs by end 2012 to ensure we have contributed to a UK ecologically coherent network of sites.

We consider that the concept of Good Environmental Status should guide the minimum level acceptable for Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) objectives, as far as that is an appropriate measure for a site-based conservation tool. This will be defined through implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Minister with responsibility for farming and the environment will reply to the hon. Member for Billericay's letters of 12 January and 15 February 2010 on his constituent Ms F Smith. [324129]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I replied to both of the hon. Member's letters on 23 March and I apologise for the intervening delay.

Recycling

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he or his officials last met representatives of the recycling industry to discuss local authorities' performance against recycling targets. [323702]

Dan Norris: DEFRA Ministers and officials meet representatives of the recycling industries on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of waste issues.

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much waste was recycled in each *(a)* district council, *(b)* borough council, *(c)* unitary authority and *(d)* other local authority area in the West Midlands in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [323877]

(2) how much waste was recycled in each *(a)* district council, *(b)* borough council, *(c)* unitary authority and *(d)* other local authority area in the East of England in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [323878]

(3) how much waste was recycled in each *(a)* district council, *(b)* borough council, *(c)* unitary authority and *(d)* other local authority area in Greater London in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [323879]

(4) how much waste was recycled in each *(a)* district council, *(b)* borough council, *(c)* unitary authority and *(d)* other local authority area in the South East in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [323880]

(5) how much waste was recycled in each *(a)* district council, *(b)* borough council, *(c)* unitary authority and *(d)* other local authority area in the South West in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [323881]

(6) how much waste was recycled in each *(a)* district council, *(b)* borough council, *(c)* unitary authority and *(d)* other local authority area in the East Midlands in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [323882]

(7) how much waste was recycled in each *(a)* district council, *(b)* borough council, *(c)* unitary authority and *(d)* other local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [323883]

(8) how much waste was recycled in each *(a)* district council, *(b)* borough council, *(c)* unitary authority and *(d)* other local authority area in the North West in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [323884]

(9) how much waste was recycled in each *(a)* district council, *(b)* borough council, *(c)* unitary authority and *(d)* other local authority area in the North East in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [323885]

Dan Norris: A table showing tonnages of waste sent for recycling, composting or reuse for all local authorities in England in the first quarter of financial year 2009-10 has been placed in the Library. The most recent full financial year data, which would take account of any seasonal changes, are available in Table 1 of the 2008-09 results for all authorities published on the DEFRA website:

www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/environment/wastats/bulletin09.htm

River Thames: Angling

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what evidence the decision was taken to restrict the eel-fishing season in the Thames; and if he will place in the Library a copy of that evidence. [324109]

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ensure compliance with the European Eel Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007, the Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 (No. 3344) establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel came into force on the 15 January 2010.

As part of the Eels Regulations, close seasons have been introduced to curtail fishing effort at times of particular pressure on the stock: 26 May 2010 to 14 February 2011 for eels 12 centimetres or less, and 1 October 2010 to 31 March 2011 for all other eels.

The 2010 close seasons were set nationally and coincide with peak runs for elvers and with the main silver eel net fishing season. The close seasons will be in force for one year to provide time to assess stocks in each river basin.

In 2011, both adult eel and elver close seasons will be set through Environment Agency (EA) byelaws and will be specific to individual river basins to match local circumstances. The EA met with representatives of Thames eel fishermen in January this year to discuss the revision of byelaws.

A copy of the Statutory Instrument together with the Explanatory Memorandum, which provides information to support the measures introduced through the Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009, has been placed in the Library.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each tender invitation issued by the Waste and Resources Action Programme in the last three years. [323523]

Dan Norris: I have arranged for copies of all the tender invitation documents that were published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJEU) by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) over the last three years to be placed in the Library of the House. Copies of all other tender invitation documents produced by WRAP over this period, including those with a value below the threshold for publication in the OJEU, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Water

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the role of water efficiency in reducing carbon dioxide emissions. [324126]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA recognises the role water efficiency can play in reducing energy use, especially through reduced hot water consumption. Last September the Department launched a water efficiency campaign under the Act on CO_2 banner which highlighted the energy and carbon implications of water use. DEFRA officials are in ongoing discussions with Department of Energy and Climate Change counterparts to coordinate the delivery of programmes to improve energy and water efficiency.

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Ofwat on incentives for water efficiency to achieve his Department's water consumption targets; and if he will make a statement. [324127]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Each water company in England and Wales has had a duty to promote the efficient use of water by its customers. Ofwat is responsible for enforcing this duty and reports on progress in its annual Service and Delivery reports, available from its website. Following discussions within the Government-led Water Saving Group, Ofwat has introduced water efficiency targets for water companies from 2010-11 to 2014-15.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Boilers: Government Assistance

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households had used the boiler scrappage scheme to replace their boiler on the latest date for which figures are available. [322922]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* At the last set of published figures as at 16 March 2010, 118,785 vouchers had been allocated. 35,390 boilers or renewable heating systems had been installed, based on the number of claims to date from householders.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many items of domestic heating equipment are receiving funding for the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme; what estimate has been made of the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from this funding; and if he will make a statement. [323430]

Joan Ruddock: Domestic heating products make up 6 per cent. of savings to date towards the 185 million tonne lifetime carbon dioxide savings target (April 2008-March 2011 time frame). This compares to some 62 per cent. of savings to date achieved through insulation products. There are seven heating product types eligible under CERT, but suppliers are not required to report the number of each installed until the end of the scheme. However, suppliers do report on a quarterly basis to Ofgem the number of microgeneration units installed (approximately 1,000 to December 2009) and the number of properties switched from coal or oil to gas central heating (approximately 100,000).

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that energy efficiency services provided by energy suppliers under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme are monitored to ensure maximum *(a)* cost effectiveness and *(b)* energy efficiency. [324254]

Joan Ruddock: An independent assessment is commissioned at the end of each three year phase of the Supplier Obligation (now termed the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target), building on the cost-benefit assessment undertaken and published at the launch of each scheme. Independent analysis of the three year supplier obligation scheme ending March 2008 showed it to have been extremely cost effective in delivery—that for every £1 added on to GB household bills to pay for the obligation, benefits equate to an average saving of £9 per household bill over the lifetime of the measures. Equally, the present supplier obligation, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target which ends in March 2011, is also believed to be highly cost-effective. Annual benefits (net of costs) are expected to be around £649 million for the lifetime of the measures, with around £228 benefits per tonne of carbon dioxide saved in the traded sector and £153 benefits per tonne of CO_2 saved in the non-traded sector. Insulation measures make up over 60 per cent. of savings to target—equivalent to some 4 million households receiving insulation measures.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change from which companies his Department sourced temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff his Department employed in each year; and what the monetary value of the contracts with each such company was in each such year. [320010]

Joan Ruddock: Since its inception on 3 October 2008 my Department spent a total of £374,939 on temporary staff in the financial year 2008-09. The latest available figures for financial year 2009-10 show an expenditure of £1,603,259 on temporary staff.

The information on the numbers of temporary staff and companies from which the staff was sourced can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322646]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has building access monitoring and control measures in place in accordance with Cabinet Office policy; requires all staff to wear passes while in the office; issues staff awareness guidance on its intranet; has a clear desk policy in place and provides secure storage for its staff.

Ongoing security awareness activities are undertaken to ensure that DECC assets and information are handled appropriately and securely.

Electronic Warfare

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects on the critical infrastructure of his Department of an electromagnetic pulse strike caused *(a)* deliberately and *(b)* through solar activity. [321757]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's Cyber Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, published alongside and reflected in the National Security Strategy update of June 2009, considers a number of methods of cyber attack, including those that generate high levels of power that can damage or disrupt unprotected electronics. It also outlines the new governance structures and workstreams which are now building on existing work to take forward the Government's plan for reducing the impact on and vulnerability of the UK's interests from cyber attacks.

The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) provides advice on electronic or cyber protective security measures to the businesses and organisations that comprise the UK's critical national infrastructure, including public utilities, companies and banks. CPNI also runs a CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) service which responds to reported attacks on private sector networks. In addition, CESG provides Government Departments with advice and guidance on how to protect against, detect and mitigate various types of cyber attack.

It would not be in the interests of national security to provide information about specific vulnerabilities, assessments or protective measures relating to electromagnetic pulse attack.

Energy: Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1205W, on energy: housing, what the cost to the public purse of the Energy Saving Trust's Penistone area project has been to date. [324849]

Joan Ruddock: The total cost of the Penistone Area Based Initiative campaign was £8,783.96.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the EU Directive on *(a)* an internal market in electricity and *(b)* Common Rules for an Internal Market in Natural Gas was not implemented until September 2009; and what assessment he has made of the effects on energy prices of the timing of the implementation of each directive. [323843]

Mr. Kidney: The Government believe they have done all that is required to implement the Internal Market in Electricity and Gas directives. The Commission was notified of the implementation of the directive (except for provisions relating to the requirement for electricity companies to disclose their fuel mix to final customers and the requirement for Ofgem to act as dispute settlement authority between energy undertakings) in October 2004. No assessment has been made of the effects on energy prices of the timing of the implementation of each directive.

Information Commissioner

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what data loss incidents his Department has reported to the Information Commissioner since its creation. [321272]

Joan Ruddock: No data loss incidents have been reported to the Information Commissioner by DECC since its inception.

Redpoint: Expenditure

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department paid to Redpoint for the production of the report entitled *(a)* implementation of the EU 2020 renewables target in the UK electricity sector: RO Reform and *(b)* Carbon Capture and Storage demonstration: analysis of policies on coal/CCS and financial incentive schemes; and how much his Department has paid to Redpoint since 3 October 2008. [320333]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has paid a total of £533,486 to Redpoint since 3 October 2008. The total paid for the RO Reform report was £155,710 and £142,427 for the Carbon Capture and Storage report. The costs include VAT.

Water

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the contribution of domestic hot water use to national *(a)* energy consumption and *(b)* carbon dioxide emissions. [324124]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's UK Low Carbon Transition Plan published in July 2009 covered energy use and CO_2 emissions from the domestic sector. It highlights that the energy used in our homes for heating water (excluding that for heating our homes) is 25 per cent. of the overall domestic energy use.

The Environment Agency have carried out extensive research on the CO_2 emissions from domestic hot water use. Their latest research suggests that annual emissions from heating water in a typical home are approximately 900kgCO_2. This at the UK level these represent ~23MtCO_2/yr of the 140.7MtCO_2/yr attributable to energy end use in homes (including emissions from electricity use in homes).

Further information can be found in the Environment Agency report here:

http://www.grdp.org/business/topics/water/109835.aspx

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account has been taken of the role of water efficiency when developing the Home Energy Management Strategy. [324125]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's Household Energy Management Strategy 'Green Homes, Warmer Homes', published on 2 March:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/saving_energy/hem/hem.aspx

focuses on cutting carbon emissions from the household sector through energy efficiency and other measures. In developing the strategy, my Department met representatives of a variety of organisations, including Waterwise who campaign on water efficiency.

Wind Power: Compensation

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will meet representatives of the inshore fishing industry to discuss compensation to that industry from offshore wind farm operators. [324050]

Mr. Kidney: The general principles of arrangements for compensation for fishermen adversely affected by wind farm development have been discussed at length in the Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group on which my Department, wind developers and the fishing industry are represented. The group, which includes a representative from the inshore fishing sector, has produced best practice guidance that can be found at

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/policy/offshore/groups/groups.aspx

This guidance includes an appendix dealing with issues concerning assessing the value of fishing activities and related compensation, disruption or displacement payments.

TRANSPORT

A13: Litter

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what contractual obligations apply to the contract for the A13/A1089 in Thurrock held by Connect Plus Group for cleaning and collecting rubbish and litter from the highways and its embankments; how performance against those obligations is monitored; and if he will make a statement. [324268]

Chris Mole: The contractual obligations that apply to Connect Plus for the cleaning and collecting of rubbish and litter from the A13/A1089 highway and its embankments require the contractor to perform routine services in respect of sweeping and cleaning.

The general requirement is to comply with the standards of cleanliness set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990: Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, for the sweeping and cleaning of all channels and hard shoulders, verges, central reservations, lay-bys, slopes, removal of litter and sweeping of footways and cycle tracks.

Performance against these sweeping and cleaning obligations is measured and reported to the Highways Agency for review on a monthly basis.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324683]

Chris Mole: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

East Coast Railway Line

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent assessment is of the likely date for returning the East Coast Main Line franchise to the private sector. [324131]

Chris Mole: The planned start date of the new franchise is November 2011.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much it has cost the public purse to run the railway services on the East Coast Main Line in each month since 13 December 2009. [324190]

Chris Mole: East Coast is a revenue generative business which returns a surplus to the public purse. Payments are made on a rail period rather than monthly basis. The following table shows the payments that East Coast is contracted to make in its first five periods of operation which show that the business will return some £47 million to the public purse during this time.

Rail period		*Amount (£)*
Period 9 (part period)	13 November 2009 to 12 December 2009	[1]12,636,157
Period 10	13 December 2009 to 9 January 2010	[2](4,630,742)
Period 11	10 January 2010 to 6 February 2010	[1]14,183,011
Period 12	7 February 2010 to 6 March 2010	[1]13,786,696
Period 13	7 March 2010 to 31 March 2010	[1]11,112,614
Total		[1]47,087,736

[1] Payment to DFT.
[2] Payment to East Coast.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his estimate is of the likely cost to the public purse of the failure of National Express's East Coast Main Line franchise. [324191]

Chris Mole: It is not possible to estimate the likely cost to the public purse of the failure of National Express's East Coast franchise at present. The final cost is dependent on the resolution of outstanding issues with National Express, the level of ticket revenue generated by East Coast and the value achieved for the franchise when it is re-let.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many jobs were lost *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly as a result of the failure of National Express's East Coast Main Line franchise. [324193]

Chris Mole: No jobs were lost either directly or indirectly as a result of the failure of National Express's East Coast Mainline franchise.

Some changes were made to the executive team with a new Managing Director appointed before the handover and three new Directors since.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his estimate is of the financial effects on the economy of the failure of National Express's East Coast Main Line franchise. [324194]

Chris Mole: The failure of National Express East Coast will not result in a cost to the economy. The Government ensured the continuity of rail services through the use of its statutory powers.

First Capital Connect

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what meetings have been held between Ministers in his Department and *(a)* First Capital Connect, *(b)* the Office of the Rail Regulator and *(c)* others on the performance of First Capital Connect in the period 1 October 2009 to 31 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [315509]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 4 February 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 877W.

Ministers have not had any meetings with the Office of Rail Regulation about First Capital Connect during that period. However, Ministers have regular meeting to discuss the performance of all train operating companies, including First Capital Connect.

The Secretary of State had a further meeting with the Chief Executive of First Group and the Managing Director of First Capital Connect on 2 February.

Infrastructure: National Policy Statements

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the National Policy Statement for National Networks will be published. [324410]

Chris Mole: An announcement on the publication of the National Networks National Policy Statement will be made in due course.

Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; whatexpenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320536]

Chris Mole: No Ministers have received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months.

The following table provides a break down of Civil Servants within the Department for Transport and its agencies who have received coaching in a Foreign Language:

Foreign Language(s)	*Number of civil servants receiving foreign language coaching*	*Expenditure incurred*
Chinese, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, BSL and Welsh	13	1,304

Network Rail: Finance

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what the projected budget allocation is for Network Rail in respect of *(a)* station maintenance, *(b)* track maintenance, *(c)* vegetation and tree management, *(d)* signal maintenance, *(e)* points, switches and crossings maintenance, *(f)* drainage maintenance, *(g)* fencing maintenance, *(h)* bridge and other structure maintenance, *(i)* buildings maintenance, *(j)* litter collection and policing, *(k)* graffiti removal and policing and *(l)* CCTV for the next 10 years; [323723]

(2) what budget was allocated to Network Rail in respect of *(a)* station maintenance, *(b)* track maintenance, *(c)* vegetation and tree management, *(d)* signal maintenance, *(e)* points, switches and crossings maintenance, *(f)* drainage maintenance, *(g)* fencing maintenance, *(h)* bridge and other structure maintenance, *(i)* buildings maintenance, *(j)* litter collection and policing, *(k)* graffiti removal and policing and *(l)* CCTV in each year since its inception; [323724]

(3) what the projected budget allocation is for Network Rail in each of the next 10 years; [323725]

(4) what Network Rail's budget allocation was in each year since its inception. [323726]

Chris Mole: Information about the funding available to Network Rail in the coming years is published by the independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in its document, "Periodic review 2008, Determination of Network Rail's outputs and funding for 2009-14". The document is available on ORR's website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/383.pdf

Details of Network Rail's historic budget allocations are published in the company's annual Regulatory Financial Statements, which are available on its website at:

http://www.networkrail.co.uk/browseDirectory.aspx?dir=\Regulatory%20Documents\Regulatory%20Compliance%20and%20Reporting\Regulatory%20Accounts&pageid=2893&root

Parking: Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has made an estimate of the proportion of households affected by *(a)* yellow line and *(b)* controlled parking zone restrictions in each year since 1997. [324016]

Mr. Khan: The introduction of yellow line parking restrictions or controlled parking zones are matters for individual local authorities, following appropriate consultation. No central record is kept of these local decisions, and the Government have made no estimate of the proportion of households affected.

Railway Stations: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 40-1W, on railway stations: Greater London, at which stations in Greater London improvement is *(a)* completed, *(b)* under way but not completed, *(c)* scheduled to start in 2010-11, *(d)* scheduled to start in 2011-12 and *(e)* scheduled to start in 2012-13. [323653]

Chris Mole: There are currently 38 stations in London boroughs in the Access for All Programme. Of these, 10 are complete or will be complete by the end of this financial year. Work is under way on a further three. According to Network Rail's latest delivery plan, there are seven stations where work is due to start on site in 2010-11, 11 in 2011-12, six in 2012-13, and one from 2013 onwards. A document listing the stations which are at each stage has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Railways: Construction

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons no environment impact assessment was produced ahead of the consultation on the High Speed Two Exceptional Hardship Schemes; and if he will make a statement. [324255]

Chris Mole: The proposed Exceptional Hardship Scheme sets out proposals to help certain home-owners who may be affected by blight following publication of the Government's response to HS2 Ltd's recommendations. The scheme is not a "project" for the purposes of Council Directive 1985/337/EEC on the assessment of effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. Accordingly, no environmental impact assessment is required.

If a decision is taken to proceed with high speed rail, the appropriate environmental assessment would form part of any preparations for the introduction of a Hybrid Bill.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons Buckinghamshire county council has not been included on the list of consultees for the consultation on the High Speed Two Exceptional Hardship Scheme. [324256]

Chris Mole: Buckinghamshire county council is regarded as a consultee. The leader and chief executive were sent copies of all the relevant materials following the Statement on high speed rail by the Secretary for State for Transport. Any individual or organisation can request copies of and respond to the Exceptional Hardship Scheme consultation. Copies are available from DFT Publications at

www.dft.gov.uk/foi/dftps/howtoobtaindftpublications/form

or telephone 0300 123 1102.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date his Department plans to respond to the participants in the consultation on the High Speed Two Exceptional Hardship Scheme. [324257]

Chris Mole: The consultation closes on 20 May 2010. The Government recognise the importance to affected property owners of introducing the scheme, should they decide to do so, as quickly as is practicable. We would expect this to be in June.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his officials have had with interested parties on the three alternative routes for High Speed Two through the Chilterns; what the (i) purpose and (ii) outcome was of each such meeting; and if he will place a copy of the minutes of each such meeting in the Library. [324258]

Chris Mole: "High Speed Rail" was published on 11 March 2010. Prior to this Ministers and officials in the Department held no meetings with interested parties outside the Government at which HS2 Ltd. proposed routes from London to the West Midlands were discussed. Following the publication of the Command Paper, the Secretary of State for Transport, has held meetings with various hon. Members, and other stakeholders, to discuss high speed rail in general and/or in relation to constituency or local interests.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what advice he has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received on the compatibility of the conduct of his Department's High Speed Two Exceptional Hardship Scheme consultation with guidance on the conduct of consultations during an election period. [324601]

Chris Mole: The Department consulted the HM Government "Code of Practice on Consultation", which recommends that consultations should not generally be launched during election periods. The consultation on the Exceptional Hardship Scheme was launched on 11 March, while Parliament was sitting. The Government recognise the importance to affected property owners of introducing the scheme, should they decide to do so, as quickly as is practicable. The timing of the launch was determined accordingly. In addition, the duration of the consultation was shortened—to 10 weeks instead of the recommended 12—for the same reason.

Railways: Fares

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the annual percentage change to the cost of travelling by rail in each year since 2000. [318468]

Chris Mole: The estimate of the annual percentage change to the cost of travelling by rail in each year since 2000 is shown in the following table, next to the percentage change in disposable income for comparison.

	Rail fares (£)	*Percentage change*	*Disposable income (£)*	*Percentage change*
2000	102.97	1.03	109.36	4.11
2001	105.45	2.41	114.29	4.51
2002	106.88	1.36	116.57	1.99
2003	108.24	1.27	120.05	2.98
2004	110.49	2.08	121.01	0.79

	Rail fares (£)	Percentage change	Disposable income (£)	Percentage change
2005	114.55	3.67	124.37	2.77
2006	112.58	-1.72	126.17	1.45
2007	114.1	1.35	126.29	0.09
2008	116.54	2.14	n/a	n/a

Richard Bowker

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what occasions the Secretary of State has *(a)* met and *(b)* spoken with Richard Bowker since 3 October 2008. [324192]

Chris Mole: As Minister of State the current Secretary of State for Transport, my noble Friend (Lord Adonis), met or spoke with Richard Bowker, the then chief executive of the National Express Group, on 23 October 2008, 28 November 2008, 18 February 2009 and 21 April 2009. Since becoming Secretary of State he had one meeting with Mr. Bowker on 9 June 2009.

The previous Secretary of State for Transport met with Mr. Bowker on 20 January and 25 February 2009.

Some of these meetings were specifically to discuss issues relating to National Express Group plc or its subsidiaries; others were wider events involving other transport stakeholders.

Road Works

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress his Department has made on amending the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions Order 2002 in order to enable the installation of portable pedestrian crossings at road works. [324110]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport consulted on draft amendments to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 between September and December 2009. These include proposals to permit portable pedestrian facilities. Officials at the Department are considering the responses received and will be revising the draft regulations to address the issues raised.

Roads: Tolls

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will *(a)* rule out a national satellite-based road pricing scheme and *(b)* end all funding in respect of road pricing and road pricing demonstration projects. [324186]

Mr. Khan: The Government have already ruled out national road pricing in this or the next Parliament. However the Government are contractually committed to funding up to December 2010 the 'Demonstrations' projects that look at the technological, operational and organisational challenges around widespread Time/Distance/Place road pricing. The Government have no plans to undertake further 'Demonstrations' projects.

Social Security Benefits

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the earnings disregard is for each means-tested benefit administered by his Department; and when each such disregard was first set. [302540]

Chris Mole: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Stephen Byers

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what dates he discussed matters relating to National Express with the right hon. Member for North Tyneside since 1 January 2009. [324188]

Chris Mole: My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport (Lord Adonis) had a brief conversation in the House of Commons with the right hon. Member for North Tyneside (Mr. Byers) in June 2009 about the East Coast Main Line. The Secretary of State does not recall the precise date (although it cannot have been before 8 June, his first full week in office).

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of each *(a)* email and *(b)* letter received by his Department from the right hon. Member for North Tyneside on National Express. [324189]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has not received any emails or letters from the right hon. Member for North Tyneside (Mr. Byers) about National Express.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will publish the *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* notes of discussions between his Department and the right hon. Member for North Tyneside on the operation by National Express of the East Coast Rail subsidiary franchise in 2009. [324603]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has not received any correspondence from the right hon. Member for North Tyneside (Mr. Byers) on the operation by National Express of the East Coast Rail subsidiary franchise.

My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport (Lord Adonis) had a brief conversation in the House of Commons with the right hon. Member for North Tyneside (Mr. Byers) in June 2009 about the East Coast Main Line.

As this was a conversation in the House of Commons there is no official note. However, the Secretary of State has stated for the record that they discussed the right hon. Member's experience in dealing with rail franchise difficulties when Transport Secretary. As regards the situation then facing National Express the Secretary of State told him that despite the company's difficulties he had no intention whatsoever of renegotiating the East Coast franchise on terms favourable to the company, as the company was seeking in its approaches to the Department for Transport. The Secretary of State also told the right hon. Member that in his view such a move would undermine the rail franchise system and would not be in the best interests of tax payers.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date in June 2009 the Secretary of State was approached by the right hon. Member for North Tyneside on the issue of penalties to be levied against National Express; who first raised the issue; what record was made of the approach; and on what date the Permanent Secretary of his Department was informed that the meeting had taken place. [324606]

Chris Mole: At the instigation of the right hon. Member for North Tyneside (Mr. Byers), my noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport (Lord Adonis) had a brief conversation with him about the East Coast Main Line in the House of Commons in June 2009. The Secretary of State does not recall the precise date (although this cannot have been before 8 June, his first full week in office), and as this was a conversation in the House of Commons there is no official note.

However, the Secretary of State has stated for the record that they discussed the right hon. Member's experience in dealing with rail franchise difficulties when Transport Secretary. As regards the situation then facing National Express, the Secretary of State told him that despite the company's difficulties he had no intention whatsoever of renegotiating the East Coast franchise on terms favourable to the company, as the company was seeking in its approaches to the Department for Transport. The Secretary of State also told the right hon. Member that in his view such a move would undermine the rail franchise system and would not be in the best interests of tax payers.

The Permanent Secretary of the Department for Transport was informed of the conversation shortly after it took place.

Transport Innovation Fund

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the Urban Challenge Fund will use funding from the Transport Innovation Fund; and how much funding will be provided to the Transport Innovation Fund. [324480]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement on the Urban Challenge Fund on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 107-08WS.

JUSTICE

Arrest Warrants: War Crimes

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1012W, on arrest warrants: war crimes, on what date the paper 'Arrest Warrants - Universal Jurisdiction' was placed on his Department's website; [324270]

(2) if he will list all the interested individuals and organisations to which a copy of the paper was sent. [324271]

Claire Ward: The paper 'Arrest Warrants - Universal Jurisdiction' was placed on the Ministry of Justice website on 17 March. It has been sent to the District Bench (Magistrates' Courts) Legal Committee and to the Jewish Leadership Council, as well as to the persons and bodies listed in my answer of 18 March 2010.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991: Convictions

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 979-90W, on Dangerous Dogs Act 1991: convictions, how many people in *(a)* London and *(b)* England were (i) charged with and (ii) convicted of offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each of the last three years; how many such convictions were under (A) section 1 and (B) section 3 of the Act; and how many resulted in a (1) destruction order, (2) disqualification order, (3) custodial sentence, (4) fine on Level 1 of the standard scale, (5) fine on Level 2 of the standard scale, (6) fine on Level 3 of the standard scale, (7) fine on Level 4 of the standard scale and (8) fine on Level 5 of the standard scale. [323654]

Claire Ward: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for offences under Section 1 and 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, in London Government Office Region and England in 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Charging data are not held by the Ministry of Justice, thus prosecutions data have been provided in lieu.

Information on destruction and disqualification orders is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Court data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for offences under Section 1 and 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, London Government office region (G.O.R) and England 2008[1, 2]

				Fine bands[3]						
Area/Section of the Act	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced*	*Fine*	*£0-£200*	*£201-£500*	*£501-£1,000*	*£1,001-£2,000*	*£2,001-£5,000*	*Sentenced to immediate custody*
London G.O.R										
Section 1[4]	62	51	51	27	20	7	—	—	—	2
Section 3[5]	150	97	97	24	19	4	1	—	—	7
England										
Section 1[4]	137	115	115	54	44	10	—	—	—	6

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for offences under Section 1 and 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, London Government office region (G.O.R) and England 2008[1, 2]

				Fine bands[3]					
Area/Section of the Act	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced*	*Fine*	*£0-£200*	*£201-£500*	*£501-£1,000*	*£1,001-£2,000*	*£2,001-£5,000*	*Sentenced to immediate custody*
Section 3[5]	1,024	713	709	223	167	44	12	—	—	20

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The levels associated with fines do not relate to the amount of the fine but to the offence committed and the statutory maximum that may be issued for that offence. Therefore as the maximum fine for each of these offences is a level 5 every fine issued for these offences would be considered as a level 5 fine; as it would cover the range £0-£5000. We have therefore shown the number of fines issued by band.

[4] Section 1 includes the following offences:
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(a).
Breeding or breeding from a fighting dog.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(b).
Selling, exchanging, offering, advertising or exposing for sale a fighting dog.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(c).
Giving or offering to give a fighting dog.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(d).
Allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(e).
Abandoning, or allowing to stray, a fighting dog.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(3).
Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog.

[5] Section 3 includes the following offences:
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1).
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3).
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1).
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3).
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person.

Notes:
Magistrates courts
In the case of sentences at magistrates courts, a change was made to the categorisation by area as part of the rollout of the Libra case management system in magistrates courts during 2008. Sentences given at courts using the Libra system are categorised according to the criminal justice area of the court, while sentences given at courts not yet using the Libra system are categorised in the same way as at the Crown court. By the end of 2008, all magistrates courts were using Libra. This change will have almost no impact on the categorisation by area; only around 0.01 percent of sentences at magistrates courts could have been affected in 2007 and 2008. Police forces do not prosecute minor offences (those that are sentenced at magistrates courts) in courts outside their areas.
Crown court
Sentences at the Crown court are categorised according to the police force that prosecuted the offence including those sentences that may be given at a court outside the prosecuting police force's area.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Debt Collection: Regulation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to announce his plans for the future regulation of the debt management industry. [323939]

Bridget Prentice: The consultation paper "Debt Management Schemes—delivering effective and balanced solutions for debtors and creditors", published on 18 September 2009, looked at the current operation of the debt management market. It sought views on whether any changes were needed in this area and, if so, what those changes should be.

The consultation paper set out three broad options. First, to continue with the measures currently under way to raise awareness about current schemes and enforce existing rules with operators. Second, to improve current schemes without regulation, possibly through the introduction of a protocol. Or third, to implement the Lord Chancellor's powers to approve debt management schemes contained in Chapter 4 of Part 5 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007.

An initial impact assessment was published alongside the consultation paper which considered the potential effectiveness of all of the options contained in the consultation paper.

The responses to the consultation are currently being considered in detail to inform the Government's decision on what action is appropriate and necessary. This decision will be announced in the Government's response to the consultation which will be published as soon as possible.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department and its agencies have incurred expenditure on Google AdWords campaigns in the last 12 months. [323693]

Mr. Wills: Google AdWords help connect an organisation with potential customers by placing relevant advertisements on the right-hand-side of Google search results pages.

The nature of the public services delivered by the Ministry of Justice—principally administering the courts, prisons, probation and tribunals systems—do not generally involve advertising, via any medium, to reach their target audience.

We are aware of only one instance where Google AdWords has been used to communicate the Department's services in the last 12 months. This involved expenditure of £759.42 on 'The Community Payback Campaign'.

All expenditure by the Ministry of Justice is undertaken in accordance with the principles of regularity, propriety and value for money contained in HM Treasury's 'Managing Public Money' and in pursuit of departmental aims and objectives.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to questions in the formulation "if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997" could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323869]

Mr. Wills: In all answers to questions formulated as identified, data were provided at a geographical level most closely relevant to the constituency of the MP asking the question, taking into account the cost limit for extraction of data.

Ex-servicemen: Probation

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many armed forces veterans on *(a)* a court order and *(b)* parole were being supervised by the Probation Service at the latest date for which figures are available; [323715]

(2) how many armed forces veterans were serving custodial sentences in *(a)* Manchester, *(b)* Durham and *(c)* Everthorpe prison on the latest date for which figures are available. [323716]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy (Mr. Llwyd) on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1068W.

Juries

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 932-34W, on juries, how many people were *(a)* required and *(b)* summoned for jury service in each year from 1990 to 2000; and how many of those summoned (i) were disqualified and (ii) refused to undertake jury service for each reason in each such year. [323946]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested from 1990-2000 for how many people were required for jury service, summoned for jury service, were disqualified and those who refused to undertake jury service are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. This is because the summoning process was undertaken and the records were held manually at each Crown court in England and Wales.

Lionel Crabb

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 20W, on Lionel Crabb, which Departments have retained portions of the records under section 3.4 of the Public Records Act. [324259]

Mr. Wills: Portions of records within PREM 11/2077 will have been retained by the Prime Minister's Office and portions of records within ADM 1/29241 will have been retained by the Ministry of Defence, all under section 3.4 of the Public Records Act.

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what methodology is used to estimate the average cost of a prison place; and whether the costs of *(a)* administration of the National Offender Management Service national and regional structures, *(b)* prisoner health care, *(c)* education services, *(d)* drug services, *(e)* dog handling and *(f)* Prison Service administration are taken into account in determining the average cost of a prison place. [323746]

Maria Eagle: The average cost of a prison place comprises the expenditure on public and private prisons (as recorded in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Agency Annual Report and Accounts), increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by NOMS. This involves some estimation. In addition, expenditure met centrally by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) is included. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. health and education). The prisoner escort service costs are included. Where the costs of young people are recharged by NOMS to the YJB, expenditure is shown gross and not reduced by income from the YJB.

For 2008-09 the overall cost of a prison place was £45,000 (to nearest £1,000). This includes expenditure met by NOMS national and regional structures, including Prison Service administration, and the YJB. It does not include expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. for health and education).

In general health care and education costs are not included. Where prisons have been contracted out to the private sector the cost to NOMS includes health care and this is included in the cost per place above. In general prisoner education is not included. In general clinical drug addiction services are not included. Services which are the responsibility of NOMS (e.g. drug testing, accredited drug treatment programmes and Counselling, Assessment, Referral advice and Throughcare services) are included. Dog handling costs are included.

Before 2008-09, Her Majesty's Prison Service annual report and accounts included the direct prison cost per place. This included only the expenditure met and managed locally at each prison and excluded expenditure met at

area, region or national level. The reported figures included expenditure on health care and education which was recharged to the other Government Departments. It did not include that expenditure met directly by other Government Departments.

Cost per prison place is expressed in terms of the Certified Normal Accommodation number of places; this gives a higher unit cost than the cost per prisoner.

Probation: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse was of probation supervision of a person for a year on the latest date for which figures are available. [323747]

Maria Eagle: Costs will vary depending on the nature and intensity of the supervision. The National Audit Office Report (NAO), "The Supervision of Community Orders in England and Wales" (January 2008) included an estimate of the cost of delivering a supervision requirement. The NAO reviewed five probation areas and estimated the average annual cost in those areas of delivering the supervision requirement to be £652. This estimate did not include the cost of probation overheads. Research indicates that female offenders have more identified needs on average than male offenders with a similar risk of re-offending, therefore supervision is often more expensive. The NAO report above did not account for this variable in their estimates. The Specification, Benchmarking and Costing programme in the National Offender Management Service is defining what it should cost to deliver services and this work is due to be completed by 2011.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the average cost of housing an individual in a probation hostel or in approved premises for 12 months. [323909]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 498W. The current grant for approved premises (formerly known as probation or bail hostels) equates to an average £26,600 per bed space for the current financial year, unchanged from the previous year. More than one resident will occupy a single bed space in approved premises over the course of a year, with an average stay of 74.7 days per resident.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the average cost of providing Probation Service supervision to an individual on unpaid work for *(a)* 160 hours and *(b)* 240 hours. [323971]

Maria Eagle: The funding for the supervision of offenders sentenced to unpaid work is part of the general grant provided to probation areas. The actual costs will vary between areas and according to the type of work placement.

The National Offender Management Service Specification Benchmarking and Costing Programme, has produced a service specification for unpaid work / Community Payback based on an assumed operating model. This will enable more accurate calculations of costs and is used by probation areas and Directors of Offender Management to assess Community Payback as part of a best value exercise.

The service specification for unpaid work/Community Payback calculates the cost of commencement, including risk assessment and offender induction during the first two hours of the sentence at £82.40. For an offender attending a weekday work group in an urban area, the ongoing cost is calculated to be £8.83 an hour. The cost of a 160 hour sentence is therefore £1,477.54 and the cost of a 240 hour sentence is £2,183.94. These calculations do not include indirect costs such as premises, which will vary between probation areas. The hourly cost of Community Payback work at agency placements, where supervision is undertaken by the organisation benefiting from the work is less costly, while operating work groups at weekends and in remote locations is proportionally more costly.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what factors are taken into account in determining the cost of probation supervision for an individual *(a)* with a condition and *(b)* without a condition. [323972]

Maria Eagle: The supervision requirement is one of 12 requirements of a community order. The factors taken into account when costing the supervision requirement are:

offender tier (there are four tiers in the National Offender Management Model describing different case management approaches and map against different resource levels and offender manager competences);

the length of the offender's sentence;

the offender's gender;

the grade of staff working with the offender; and

the time taken by staff to deliver the supervision requirement, which includes meetings with the offender, liaison with providers of specialist advice and feeding back to the offender manager. The level of engagement is primarily dependent on the tier of the offender.

Gender of the offender is a factor when costing supervision requirement because the OASys research shows that women offenders at a given tier have on average a higher number of needs than male offenders. Therefore more contact time is assumed for women offenders than male offenders when costing the supervision requirement.

Costs estimated using this bottom up process are not the full costs since they do not include overheads. Full costs of the supervision requirement will be collected and published in order to benchmark the whole of the probation system by the end of 2011.

Probation: West Yorkshire

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people completed and passed a probation programme in each probation area in West Yorkshire in each year since 2005. [322700]

Maria Eagle: Between April 2005 and February 2010, 4,135 offenders have completed an accredited programme in the West Yorkshire probation area. In the first four years West Yorkshire probation area consistently over achieved in relation to its completion target for accredited programmes. The data for 2009-10 are for 11 months.

Therefore it is not possible to say that this will be the case this year, as achievement for this period is 89 per cent. of the annual target.

A full breakdown by district and programme type is shown in the following tables. Targeting by programme type began in April 2007 and a more detailed breakdown between the various types of programme is available from this point. The accredited "offending behaviour" programme category includes the suite of accredited programmes delivered in West Yorkshire, other than domestic violence and sex offending. This includes thinking skills, substance misuse, and drink driving programmes.

Programme delivery in West Yorkshire is organised within districts. However, in the two smallest districts (Calderdale and Wakefield), delivery is linked to neighbouring larger districts (Bradford and Kirklees). This means that an offender can begin a programme in another district rather than waiting to start in the district in which (s)he is resident. This is good practice in that a prompt start is more likely to result in successful programme completion.

Accredited programme targets have been reduced in the past two years as the probation area has introduced a range of specified activities and alcohol treatment conditions for offenders who pose a lower risk of harm and reoffending, thereby reserving accredited programme provision for the more serious offenders. West Yorkshire plans to expand further its suite of interventions over the next two years to provide sentencers with a broader range of options.

In 2009-10 a target was set for the programme completion rate (by district and programme). Across the probation area performance has exceeded target for offending behaviour and sex offender programmes but not for domestic violence. The range of provision will be increased in 2010 with an introduction of a shorter domestic abuse programme for less serious offenders in order to improve completion rates.

West Yorkshire Probation Programme Completions[1]

		Accredited OBP			*Domestic violence*			*Sex offender*			*Total completions*		
		Comp	*Target*	*Rate (%)*	*Comp*	*Target*	*Rate (%)*	*Comp*	*Target*	*Rate*	*Comp*	*Target*	*Rate (%)*
2005-06	Bradford/ Calderdale	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	340	248	137
	Wakefield/ Kirklees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	302	248	122
	Leeds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	241	247	98
	West Yorks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	883	743	119
2006-07	Bradford/ Calderdale	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	320	291	110
	Wakefield/ Kirklees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	308	290	106
	Leeds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	286	290	99
	West Yorks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	914	871	105
2007-08	Bradford/ Calderdale	259	212	122	65	55	118	22	20	110	346	287	121
	Wakefield/ Kirklees	183	212	86	51	60	85	22	20	110	256	292	88
	Leeds	209	212	99	62	60	103	20	20	100	291	292	100
	West Yorks	651	636	102	178	175	102	64	60	107	893	871	103
2008-09	Bradford/ Calderdale	201	188	107	54	50	108	16	20	80	271	258	105
	Wakefield/ Kirklees	201	188	107	57	50	114	27	20	135	285	258	110
	Leeds	201	186	108	57	50	114	18	20	90	276	256	108
	West Yorks	603	562	107	168	150	112	61	60	102	832	772	108
2009-10	Bradford/ Calderdale	155	167	93	53	47	113	12	18	67	220	232	95
	Wakefield/ Kirklees	113	166	68	38	47	81	1	16	6	152	229	66
	Leeds	160	166	96	63	47	134	18	18	100	241	231	104
	West Yorks	428	499	86	154	141	109	31	52	60	613	692	89

[1] The table reflects that (1) the programmes target was not split by type until 2007-08, and (2) West Yorkshire currently divides it targets by super district as some districts deliver programmes for others, and (3) the 2009-10 figures do not include March which historically is the month in which the most completions occur.

West Yorkshire Probation Current Completion rates[1]

		Accredited OBP		Domestic Violence		Sex Offender	
		Rate (%)	Target	Rate (%)	Target	Rate (%)	Target
2009-10	Bradford/Calderdale	69	65	52	67	88	77
	Wakefield/Kirklees	69	65	70	67	90	77
	Leeds	60	65	63	67	66	77
	West Yorks	66	65	59	67	82	77

[1] The completion rate measure has only been introduced in the last financial year.

Note:
West Yorkshire probation current programmes:
Addressing Substance Related Offending
Drink Impaired Drivers
Thinking Skills Programme
Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme
Internet Sex Offender Treatment Programme
Northumbria Sex Offender Group Programme
Enhanced Thinking Skills Programme

Public Sector

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to share services, functions and back offices with local authorities as part of the Total Place initiative. [323943]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice is not taking steps to share services, functions and back offices with local authorities as part of the Total Place initiative. However, the Department is supportive of any local partners' decisions on sharing services, functions or back offices to make efficiency savings where they deem it appropriate. The Government's report on Total Place will be published alongside Budget 2010.

Repossession Orders: Mortgages

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders for the repossession of homes were issued in each region in each quarter of each year from 2005 to 2009. [323823]

Bridget Prentice: Tables showing the numbers of claims leading to orders being made for the repossession of property by mortgage lenders and landlords in England and Wales by Government Office Region for 2005 to 2009 are shown as follows. The figures are based on the physical locations of the properties which were the subject of the court actions.

These figures represent the numbers of claims leading to orders being made. This counting basis is more accurate than the number of orders made, because it removes the double-counting of instances where a single claim leads to more than one order. It is also a more meaningful measure of the number of homeowners who are subject to court repossession actions.

These figures do not indicate how many properties have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made, while not all court orders result in repossession.

Statistics on mortgage and landlord possession claims in the county courts of England and Wales broken down by region, local authority and court, are published by the Ministry of Justice on a quarterly basis on the Ministry's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgatelandlordpossession.htm

Table 1: Number of mortgage[1] possession claims leading to orders made[2, 3, 4] for properties in England and Wales by Government Office Regions (GOR)[5], 2005-09

	Quarter	East	East Midlands	London	North East	North West	South East	South West	Wales	West Midlands	Yorkshire and the Humber	Not identified	Total
2005	1	1,450	1,025	2,565	585	1,680	1,780	1,010	720	1,510	1,175	210	13,710
	2	1,880	1,495	3,325	785	2,225	2,370	1,125	1,025	1,750	1,625	235	17,845
	3	1,915	1,480	3,405	860	2,440	2,685	1,365	1,055	1,985	1,605	310	19,105
	4	1,820	1,575	3,460	825	2,285	2,295	1,190	1,005	1,785	1,755	260	18,260
2006	1	2,120	1,750	3,815	1,020	2,825	2,725	1,400	1,170	2,255	1,920	295	21,295
	2	1,985	1,850	3,650	1,105	3,045	2,600	1,325	1,265	2,375	2,005	275	21,475
	3	2,155	1,925	3,815	1,395	3,200	2,830	1,485	1,455	2,535	2,225	275	23,295
	4	2,080	1,780	3,525	1,350	3,360	2,515	1,305	1,430	2,310	2,085	210	21,950
2007	1	2,050	2,045	3,890	1,315	3,185	2,775	1,305	1,405	2,405	2,135	70	22,580
	2	1,930	1,715	3,480	1,250	3,485	2,535	1,365	1,330	2,380	2,165	65	21,695
	3	2,105	2,215	3,275	1,415	3,740	2,600	1,380	1,430	2,760	2,425	45	23,390
	4	2,095	1,985	3,020	1,385	3,835	2,515	1,395	1,660	2,640	2,420	40	22,990
2008	1	2,380	2,385	3,550	1,455	4,315	2,860	1,615	1,860	3,055	2,670	45	26,200
	2	2,760	2,465	3,865	1,775	5,060	3,165	1,890	1,960	3,555	3,025	65	29,585

Table 1: Number of mortgage[1] possession claims leading to orders made[2, 3, 4] for properties in England and Wales by Government Office Regions (GOR)[5, 6], 2005-09

	Quarter	East	East Midlands	London	North East	North West	South East	South West	Wales	West Midlands	Yorkshire and the Humber	Not identified	Total
	3	2,710	2,650	3,970	1,775	4,665	3,085	1,905	2,135	3,185	3,135	65	29,285
	4	2,390	2,385	3,475	1,660	4,215	2,750	1,805	1,795	3,225	2,940	55	26,695
2009	1	1,580	1,410	2,245	1,115	2,715	1,955	980	1,185	1,550	1,750	35	16,520
	2	1,740	1,490	2,810	1,290	3,135	2,205	1,280	1,195	1,970	1,910	15	19,040
	3	1,920	1,795	2,870	1,315	3,560	2,265	1,425	1,405	2,185	2,355	20	21,115
	4	1,435	1,280	2,100	965	2,385	1,820	990	1,025	1,600	1,875	25	15,495

[1] Includes all types of mortgage lenders.
[2] The number of claims that lead to an order includes all claims in which the first order, whether outright or suspended, is made during the period.
[3] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
[4] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.
[5] All figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
[6] The figures represent the location of the property within each Government Office Region as opposed to the location of the court where the orders were made.
Source:
Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of landlord[1] [2] possession claims leading to orders made[3, 4, 5, 6] for properties in England and Wales by Government Office Regions (GOR)[7], 2005-09

	Quarter	East	East Midlands	London	North East	North West	South East	South West	Wales	West Midlands	Yorkshire and the Humber	Not identified	Total
2005	1	2,105	1,915	5,700	1,490	3,665	2,915	1,655	1,305	2,565	2,390	1,285	26,985
	2	2,290	2,145	6,035	1,415	3,920	2,845	1,660	1,350	2,705	2,515	1,275	28,150
	3	2,300	2,060	6,010	1,250	3,665	2,895	1,665	1,620	2,750	2,275	1,220	27,710
	4	2,305	2,025	6,015	1,250	3,590	2,785	1,605	1,370	2,555	2,595	975	27,070
2006	1	2,375	2,095	6,165	1,365	3,725	2,755	1,750	1,400	2,785	2,380	995	27,795
	2	2,140	1,870	5,845	1,455	3,275	2,550	1,405	1,250	2,485	2,315	710	25,290
	3	2,110	1,865	6,230	1,335	3,335	2,535	1,480	1,600	2,745	2,395	580	26,210
	4	2,065	1,635	5,160	1,490	3,330	2,530	1,375	1,480	2,430	2,160	475	24,140
2007	1	2,105	1,630	5,700	1,380	3,070	3,095	1,575	1,260	2,495	2,275	300	24,885
	2	1,840	1,545	5,595	1,285	3,095	2,515	1,410	1,155	2,415	2,035	195	23,085
	3	2,105	1,790	6,000	1,395	3,420	2,775	1,520	1,385	2,750	2,120	200	25,455
	4	2,120	1,690	5,940	1,250	3,400	2,745	1,465	1,355	2,735	2,305	190	25,190
2008	1	2,095	1,780	5,950	1,145	3,625	3,065	1,550	1,325	2,665	2,270	190	25,665
	2	2,215	1,735	6,255	1,260	3,360	2,885	1,440	1,185	2,760	2,010	170	25,275
	3	2,280	1,800	6,665	1,160	3,250	2,770	1,485	1,210	2,605	2,025	160	25,415
	4	2,190	1,780	5,625	1,395	3,365	2,670	1,525	1,175	2,645	1,945	140	24,460
2009	1	2,380	1,925	5,765	1,350	3,195	2,840	1,515	1,285	2,350	1,940	105	24,655
	2	2,005	1,570	5,590	1,085	2,990	2,640	1,375	1,185	2,210	1,655	100	22,410
	3	2,245	1,735	5,755	1,240	3,180	2,810	1,365	1,135	2,285	1,840	75	23,675
	4	2,115	1,650	5,405	1,125	2,820	2,615	1,215	1,040	2,290	1,725	60	22,065

[1] Includes all types of landlord whether social or private.
[2] Landlord actions include those made under both standard and accelerated procedures. The accelerated procedure enables the orders to be made solely on the basis of written evidence for shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end.
[3] The number of claims that lead to an order includes all claims in which the first order, whether outright or suspended, is made during the period.
[4] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
[5] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.
[6] All figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
[7] The figures represent the location of the property within each Government Office Region as opposed to the location of the court where the orders were made.
Source:
Ministry of Justice

Traffic Penalty Tribunal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will designate the Traffic Penalty Tribunal as a public authority under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [323947]

Mr. Wills: The Government conducted a public consultation between 25 October 2007 and 1 February 2008 to seek views on which bodies might be included within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act by way of a section 5 order. The Traffic Penalty Tribunal was not nominated as part of this consultation, and so has not been considered for inclusion in the first section 5 order. However, the Government made clear in their response to the consultation published on 16 July 2009 that the first section 5 order would be an initial step, and that the extension of the Act would be kept under review.

The bodies proposed for inclusion in the first section 5 order are:

academy schools

Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)

financial Ombudsman Service

UCAS.

Victim Support Schemes: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 836W, on victim support schemes: York, how much funding was provided for victim support schemes at all North Yorkshire magistrates' courts, including those in York, in 2008-09; and how many people were supported by such schemes in that year. [323368]

Claire Ward: In 2008-09 the North Yorkshire Magistrates Courts Witness Service received £74,354 funding from the Government grant to Victim Support.

In the same year the service provided support at magistrates courts in North Yorkshire to 1,905 witnesses.

Young Offenders: Location

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 261-62W, on young offenders: sports, what percentage of *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 16, *(f)* 17, *(g)* 18 and *(h)* 19 years old in each young offender institution were detained within (i) 20, (ii) 30 and (iii) 40 miles away from their homes in each year since 2002. [323896]

Maria Eagle: The following tables show the percentage of 15 to 19-year-old male and female offenders in young offender institutions (YOIs) who were detained within 20 miles, 30 miles and 40 miles of their home area, as of September 2005 through September to 2008. Information for 2009 has been extracted as of May. Data before September 2005 are not available. Those aged 12 to 14 are not held in YOIs.

All prisoners are asked for details of their home address on first reception to prison and on discharge from prison. About 60 per cent. of prisoners (both male and female) are shown to have given a recognised address. If no address is given, various proxies are used to determine distance from home, including next-of-kin address and committal court address.

Closeness to home of young offenders aged between 15-19 held in young offender institutions between 2005 and 2009

Male YOIs (as of September 2005)

	Percentage of 15-year-olds held within			*Percentage of 16-year-olds held within*			*Percentage of 17-year-olds held within*			*Percentage of 18-year-olds held within*			*Percentage of 19-year-olds held within*		
	20 miles	*30 miles*	*40 miles*	*20 miles*	*30 miles*	*40 miles*	*20 miles*	*30 miles*	*40 miles*	*20 miles*	*30 miles*	*40 miles*	*20 miles*	*30 miles*	*40 miles*
Ashfield	3	6	22	9	12	20	13	15	28	9	13	26	0	0	0
Aylesbury	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	22	33	14	25	42
Bronsford	50	63	81	61	66	85	52	56	86	63	70	89	64	78	90
Castington	17	67	67	3	34	41	3	27	40	6	29	32	4	50	54
Deerbolt	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	7	20	1	4	17
Feltham	30	87	91	25	87	90	28	80	87	37	92	94	34	94	94
Glen Parva	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	19	65	17	25	64
Hindley	86	100	100	73	98	98	81	96	96	60	95	97	51	87	88
Huntercombe	0	16	32	4	8	21	8	17	34	9	18	20	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lancaster Farms	0	13	17	0	17	24	1	19	30	4	27	33	1	21	32
Northallerton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	2	4	3	8	13
Portland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	9	12	9	9	13
Reading	n/a	n/a	n/a	100	100	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	28	48	57	25	42	55
Rochester	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	34	74	16	37	66
Stoke Heath	5	20	40	0	7	34	1	5	26	2	15	31	7	23	49
Swinfen Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	34	45	55	33	43	56
Thorn Cross	100	100	100	55	64	73	38	63	63	14	46	59	27	59	77
Warren Hill	0	0	0	3	5	6	3	8	11	0	4	4	0	50	50
Werrington	0	5	16	8	18	33	7	13	24	0	7	7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wetherby	29	43	63	26	45	58	32	48	59	22	34	48	n/a	n/a	n/a

Male YOIs (as of September 2006)

	Percentage of 15-year-olds held within			Percentage of 16-year-olds held within			Percentage of 17-year-olds held within			Percentage of 18-year-olds held within			Percentage of 19-year-olds held within		
	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles
Ashfield	11	11	16	10	14	26	6	7	15	5	8	28	0	0	83
Aylesbury	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	10	19	1	10	26
Brinsford	63	63	74	62	67	87	63	66	82	71	81	86	70	85	91
Castington	7	17	31	5	23	26	11	25	34	4	18	36	6	37	51
Deerbolt	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	6	23	5	10	28
Feltham	10	80	95	23	74	83	21	79	86	32	81	84	45	92	93
Glen Parva	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	10	22	55	14	20	61
Hindley	29	81	86	57	82	90	67	83	84	40	85	88	58	87	94
Huntercombe	4	9	32	2	5	22	2	9	30	7	8	25	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lancaster Farms	0	6	26	0	10	17	3	15	26	2	23	34	3	25	30
Northallerton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	4	6	0	1	3
Portland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	2	2	2	7
Reading	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	33	53	61	28	48	55
Rochester	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	35	70	6	36	63
Stoke Heath	4	12	24	3	17	31	3	10	21	3	14	34	1	14	41
Swinfen Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	41	50	28	39	47
Thorn Cross	0	50	50	27	36	36	0	47	60	30	55	65	16	36	53
Warren Hill	0	10	10	0	5	7	1	8	10	0	4	13	n/a	n/a	n/a
Werrington	0	0	7	0	0	12	3	5	14	0	11	11	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wetherby	33	53	63	28	43	49	24	41	54	27	42	44	n/a	n/a	n/a

Male YOIs (as of September 2007)

	Percentage of 15-year-olds held within			Percentage of 16-year-olds held within			Percentage of 17-year-olds held within			Percentage of 18-year-olds held within			Percentage of 19-year-olds held within		
	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles
Ashfield	15	17	27	11	14	17	7	9	16	8	10	19	0	0	100
Aylesbury	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	2	7	16	1	7	21
Brinsford	80	80	87	60	62	74	53	55	77	61	67	82	66	80	92
Castington	8	31	54	7	33	43	4	33	41	1	38	46	4	36	55
Cookham Wood	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	18	27	0	9	27	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Deerbolt	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	7	24	4	7	23
Feltham	36	73	82	44	67	69	39	74	80	53	85	87	66	97	97
Glen Parva	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	35	57	13	39	59
Hindley	38	88	94	76	91	96	63	86	89	45	85	86	50	87	90
Huntercombe	0	11	37	6	13	28	2	10	25	0	5	13	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lancaster Farms	5	29	38	2	10	20	1	25	32	2	25	34	2	22	33
Northallerton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	2	2
Portland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	2	6	2	2	5
Reading	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	26	39	54	18	38	53
Rochester	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	31	69	14	40	75
Stoke Heath	0	19	24	3	7	32	4	13	22	10	19	35	11	23	37
Swinfen Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24	38	44	26	32	51
Thorn Cross	100	100	100	14	14	29	27	45	45	28	58	67	24	46	56
Warren Hill	8	8	15	7	7	14	4	4	8	7	10	21	n/a	n/a	n/a
Werrington	5	16	21	5	11	18	1	7	16	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wetherby	25	31	50	17	35	54	17	29	44	16	27	36	0	100	100

Male YOIs (as of September 2008)

	Percentage of 15-year-olds held within			Percentage of 16-year-olds held within			Percentage of 17-year-olds held within			Percentage of 18-year-olds held within			Percentage of 19-year-olds held within		
	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles
Ashfield	15	15	18	8	12	23	10	13	17	10	10	24	0	0	0

Male YOIs (as of September 2008)

	Percentage of 15-year-olds held within			Percentage of 16-year-olds held within			Percentage of 17-year-olds held within			Percentage of 18-year-olds held within			Percentage of 19-year-olds held within		
	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles
Aylesbury	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	6	31	1	9	23
Brinsford	83	83	83	81	81	85	74	76	95	64	67	74	69	74	82
Castington	0	8	25	0	29	32	6	25	32	5	23	31	0	33	41
Cookham Wood	0	43	71	13	20	80	19	65	96	50	100	100	n/a	n/a	n/a
Deerbolt	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	6	21	2	5	20
Feltham	67	92	92	46	82	86	58	86	89	68	97	97	68	98	98
Glen Parva	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13	45	58	15	45	56
Hindley	71	100	100	70	95	95	68	85	87	44	84	86	52	84	88
Huntercombe	3	3	12	2	5	20	3	7	21	6	12	26	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lancaster Farms	0	14	25	0	26	36	1	13	23	4	25	40	5	21	32
Northallerton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	2	5	2	6	9
Portland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	3	1	1	6
Reading	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	39	54	62	28	40	52
Rochester	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	29	70	8	32	76
Stoke Heath	10	20	30	9	26	36	2	8	29	12	23	33	10	22	37
Swinfen Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	20	30	24	29	45
Thorn Cross	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	25	25	50	17	43	55
Warren Hill	4	8	15	9	9	14	7	8	15	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Werrington	0	0	31	5	24	38	1	17	38	0	13	13	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wetherby	23	38	51	26	37	51	23	37	51	15	38	62	n/a	n/a	n/a

Male YOIs (as of May 2009)

	Percentage of 15-year-olds held within			Percentage of 16-year-olds held within			Percentage of 17-year-olds held within			Percentage of 18-year-olds held within			Percentage of 19-year-olds held within		
	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles
Ashfield	17	17	35	10	13	16	11	12	17	9	9	15	n/a	n/a	n/a
Aylesbury	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	5	19	1	8	31
Brinsford	82	82	100	56	60	72	72	77	92	61	69	83	69	74	79
Castington	7	27	33	3	21	24	0	25	33	1	19	35	4	30	46
Cookham Wood	25	50	50	17	33	56	21	38	55	36	50	50	n/a	n/a	n/a
Deerbolt	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	6	22	1	4	16
Feltham	52	84	92	52	90	90	57	90	93	67	96	97	69	97	97
Glen Parva	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	43	67	13	40	60
Hindley	63	93	96	51	81	88	46	82	92	63	94	94	n/a	n/a	n/a
Huntercombe	4	13	25	3	7	21	3	10	23	0	7	28	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lancaster Farms	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	16	22	2	21	26
Northallerton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	5	7	0	10	13
Portland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	4	1	1	4
Reading	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24	49	58	13	36	54
Rochester	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	25	71	8	30	71
Stoke Heath	0	7	21	4	11	22	3	15	29	3	13	22	9	26	39
Swinfen Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18	27	33	17	24	36
Thorn Cross	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	44	50	50	30	54	63
Warren Hill	0	0	12	3	3	10	7	7	11	9	9	13	n/a	n/a	n/a
Werrington	0	13	44	9	27	42	11	25	46	0	11	17	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wetherby	5	19	27	21	33	46	16	27	39	10	23	38	n/a	n/a	n/a

Female YOIs (as of September 2005)

	Percentage of 15-year-olds held within			Percentage of 16-year-olds held within			Percentage of 17-year-olds held within			Percentage of 18-year-olds held within			Percentage of 19-year-olds held within		
	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles
Askham Grange	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0
Cookham Wood	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	14	57	0	100	100	n/a	n/a	n/a
Downview	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17	33	42	0	100	100	n/a	n/a	n/a
Drake Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100	100	100	33	33	33
Eastwood Park	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	6	6	13	25	13	20	33
Foston Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	75	100
Holloway	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	73	73	87	55	55	75
Low Newton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	67	67	67	44	78	78
New Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	38	69	16	40	52	48	61	70
Styal	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	45	55	91	36	36	57

Female YOIs (as of September 2006)

	Percentage of 15-year-olds held within			Percentage of 16-year-olds held within			Percentage of 17-year-olds held within			Percentage of 18-year-olds held within			Percentage of 19-year-olds held within		
	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles
Askham Grange	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0
Cookham Wood	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	41	47	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Downview	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13	27	27	50	50	50	n/a	n/a	n/a
Drake Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastwood Park	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	6	22	6	6	11	10	16	29
Foston Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	100	0	0	33
Holloway	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	47	47	50	28	37	44
Low Newton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	25	25	26	47	53
New Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21	26	47	18	45	55	27	36	45
Styal	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29	43	57	40	47	80

Female YOIs (as of September 2007)

	Percentage of 15-year-olds held within			Percentage of 16-year-olds held within			Percentage of 17-year-olds held within			Percentage of 18-year-olds held within			Percentage of 19-year-olds held within		
	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles
Askham Grange	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	50	50	50
Downview	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	50	64	79	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Drake Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	25
Eastwood Park	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	6	12	12	18	41
Foston Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	8	23	0	100	100	0	33	33
Holloway	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	48	57	62	57	62	68
Low Newton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	63	63	63	50	50	50
New Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	23	32	38	77	77	25	63	75
Styal	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	33	60	87	18	32	64

Female YOIs (as of September 2008)

	Percentage of 15-year-olds held within			Percentage of 16-year-olds held within			Percentage of 17-year-olds held within			Percentage of 18-year-olds held within			Percentage of 19-year-olds held within		
	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles
Askham Grange	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Downview	n/a	n/a	n/a	100	100	100	53	53	73	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0
Drake Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	40	40	33	33	33
Eastwood Park	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	13	18	18	35	5	11	26
Foston Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13	27	60	33	67	100	100	100	100
Holloway	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	72	76	80	39	45	61
Low Newton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20	20	20	17	33	42
New Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	27	38	10	25	45	6	38	56
Styal	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21	36	64	55	55	64

Female YOIs (as of May 2009)

	Percentage of 15-year-olds held within			Percentage of 16-year-olds held within			Percentage of 17-year-olds held within			Percentage of 18-year-olds held within			Percentage of 19-year-olds held within		
	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles	20 miles	30 miles	40 miles
Askham Grange	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Downview	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	50	79	79	33	67	67	67	78	78
Drake Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	11	11	44
Eastwood Park	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	17	17	42	16	16	26
Foston Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	22	67	0	100	100	n/a	n/a	n/a
Holloway	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	55	64	64	52	57	57
Low Newton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	33	33	27	45	45
New Hall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	33	53	6	28	44	53	73	80
Styal	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	33	61	21	46	63

Young Offenders: Self-Harm

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 265-67W, on young offender institutions: injuries, how many incidents of *(a)* self-harm and *(b)* assault there were in each young offender institution in 2009. [323944]

Maria Eagle: Self-harm and assault data is submitted by all establishments using the Incident Reporting System or Prison-NOMIS, where prisons have migrated to the new system. The nature of this data and the amount of it means that data can change as investigations are completed, data is revised and re-submitted. Data for 2009 is still being collated and validated. It will be published in July 2010.

Youth Custody

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were held in each *(a)* secure children's home, *(b)* secure training centre and *(c)* young offender institution in each year from 2002 to 2009; and what proportion of such people were aged (i) 12, (ii) 13, (iii) 14, (iv) 15, (v) 16, (vi) 17, (vii) 18 and (viii) 19 years old at the time at which they were first detained. [323945]

Maria Eagle: Table 1 details the number of young people aged 12 to 17 held in each secure children's home, secure training centre and young offender institution on 30 June in each year from 2002 to 2009. Information on the young people's ages at the time they were first detained is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

These data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time. Differences in counting rules may mean that figures from other databases are not directly comparable.

Apart from those completing juvenile sentences, young people aged 18 and 19 who are sent to custody are accommodated in the young adult (18 to 20) estate. Table 2 shows the total number of young people in custody aged 18 and 19 on 30 June each year from 2002 to 2009.

Information on the population of individual young adult establishments and on the age of the young people at the time they were first detained is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

These data have been supplied by Justice Statistics Analytical Services and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time. Differences in counting rules may mean that figures from other databases are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Number of 12 to 17-year-olds in custody, as at 30 June: 2002-09

Accommodation type	Establishment	Age	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Secure children's homes	Aldine House	12	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
		13	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	1
		14	0	5	2	2	2	1	1	1
		15	2	0	0	1	2	3	2	1
		16	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	2
		17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Atkinson Unit	12	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0
		14	8	3	2	5	2	4	2	0
		15	2	3	3	2	2	1	6	0
		16	2	6	2	2	3	3	0	2
		17	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Aycliffe Young People's Centre	12	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
		13	3	4	6	1	1	3	5	3
		14	11	10	8	8	9	8	7	11
		15	10	10	8	10	5	9	8	6
		16	6	7	11	9	5	8	4	5
		17	3	2	1	2	5	1	1	0
	Barton Moss Secure Unit	12	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	0
		13	3	0	5	2	2	3	6	4
		14	10	11	5	9	8	7	6	8
		15	2	7	6	5	7	1	4	5
		16	2	0	2	1	0	3	3	1
		17	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Briars Hey	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Clare Lodge	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Clayfields House	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	2	0	0	4	3	3	1	2
		14	4	5	5	3	5	4	6	5
		15	5	5	3	3	3	3	2	3
		16	2	5	3	2	1	0	2	2
		17	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
	Dales House	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
		14	5	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
		15	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Number of 12 to 17-year-olds in custody, as at 30 June: 2002-09

Accommodation type	*Establishment*	*Age*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
		16	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Earlswood Secure Unit	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
		16	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	East Moor	12	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	1
		13	4	2	4	7	5	4	6	4
		14	22	11	11	15	17	17	18	14
		15	5	13	12	7	5	7	6	9
		16	1	5	4	6	5	3	2	4
		17	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Gladstone House	12	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	0
		13	1	4	2	2	4	3	0	0
		14	3	3	8	4	7	3	0	0
		15	3	4	4	4	2	3	0	0
		16	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0
		17	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
	Hillside	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	1	3	1	0	1	2	1	2
		14	4	1	3	5	4	5	5	2
		15	5	3	3	6	4	3	4	6
		16	3	6	6	2	4	4	1	5
		17	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	0
	Kyloe House	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
		13	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
		14	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	0
		15	2	0	2	1	1	0	1	0
		16	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
		17	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
	Leverton Secure Unit	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Lincolnshire Secure Unit	12	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
		13	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
		14	3	1	1	0	3	3	2	3
		15	0	4	4	4	2	2	3	3
		16	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	0
		17	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
	Market Street	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Number of 12 to 17-year-olds in custody, as at 30 June: 2002-09

Accommodation type	Establishment	Age	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
		13	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Orchard Lodge	12	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
		13	1	1	1	4	1	5	0	0
		14	3	8	8	6	8	7	7	1
		15	6	6	7	6	6	3	6	3
		16	3	5	2	0	2	3	4	1
		17	2	2	1	2	0	0	1	0
	Red Bank Community Home	12	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	0
		13	3	3	3	1	0	3	5	1
		14	8	14	8	13	13	6	8	6
		15	8	7	12	9	4	9	9	9
		16	5	2	2	2	8	5	6	9
		17	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	1
	Redsands Secure Unit	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	St. Catherines Centre for Girls	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	St. John's Centre (Tiffield)	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
		14	2	3	4	0	0	0	0	0
		15	5	5	2	0	0	0	0	0
		16	2	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sutton Place	12	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
		13	4	0	0	2	1	2	0	0
		14	2	4	5	3	2	1	1	0
		15	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1
		16	0	3	1	2	2	3	2	0
		17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Stamford House	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Number of 12 to 17-year-olds in custody, as at 30 June: 2002-09

Accommodation type →	Establishment	Age	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
		16	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Stoke House	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Swanwick Lodge	12	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
		13	5	3	2	3	2	3	1	0
		14	1	5	3	4	2	3	8	4
		15	1	0	4	1	2	1	1	3
		16	1	0	1	1	2	0	3	0
		17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Thornbury House	12	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
		14	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
		15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Vinney Green	12	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	1
		13	2	2	1	3	2	2	3	0
		14	4	5	7	8	8	5	10	8
		15	5	7	5	1	4	8	4	3
		16	8	6	4	6	4	4	3	6
		17	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	1
	Watling House	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secure Training Centres	Hassockfield STC	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	5	5	6	3	0	0	0	0
		14	21	13	10	8	12	23	16	9
		15	10	13	15	12	16	19	22	8
		16	1	9	4	11	10	14	14	13
		17	0	1	1	1	0	2	4	2
	Medway	12	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
		13	3	6	5	3	1	1	2	5
		14	14	25	17	17	21	21	17	13
		15	17	18	25	23	16	17	25	27
		16	6	14	23	22	20	22	18	17
		17	1	2	1	2	6	4	14	5
	Oakhill STC	12	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Number of 12 to 17-year-olds in custody, as at 30 June: 2002-09

Accommodation type	Establishment	Age	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
		13	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	2
		14	0	0	1	14	17	15	15	23
		15	0	0	0	23	20	22	8	30
		16	0	0	0	25	28	18	17	19
		17	0	0	0	1	7	2	0	4
	Ranasbrook	12	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
		13	8	7	6	3	2	0	0	3
		14	28	24	20	22	22	19	20	10
		15	13	23	27	23	19	20	25	27
		16	7	22	12	24	26	32	27	36
		17	0	0	5	4	3	11	12	5
Young Offender Institutions	Ashfield	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
		15	28	16	28	23	31	47	40	24
		16	79	90	79	77	91	96	113	76
		17	119	98	150	174	177	194	205	215
	Aylesbury	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
	Brinsford	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	23	24	26	20	18	18	6	7
		16	99	90	67	63	63	49	40	18
		17	93	97	92	88	112	78	69	60
	Brockhill	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	10	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bullwood Hall	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	27	15	20	16	0	0	0	0
	Castington	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	15	18	21	8	16	10	16	11
		16	63	99	33	47	34	46	45	27

Table 1: Number of 12 to 17-year-olds in custody, as at 30 June: 2002-09

Accommodation type	Establishment	Age	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
		17	95	86	82	70	77	77	95	87
	Cookham Wood	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7
		16	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	22
		17	0	0	0	0	14	11	23	34
	Downview	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	0	0	13	15	13	14	15
	Eastwood Park	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	6	7	7	10	19	13	18	14
	Feltham	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	41	31	30	30	24	28	24	30
		16	75	83	76	61	74	59	63	61
		17	198	166	150	137	131	135	147	129
	Foston Hall	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	0	0	0	0	0	11	12	9
	Hindley	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	29	17	19	14	22	11	31	35
		16	63	57	34	44	52	47	57	82
		17	83	64	98	90	76	85	101	156
	Holloway	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	8	11	8	0	1	0	0	0
	Huntercombe	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Number of 12 to 17-year-olds in custody, as at 30 June: 2002-09

Accommodation type	*Establishment*	*Age*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
		14	9	9	9	6	0	0	0	0
		15	36	18	27	30	38	30	40	20
		16	83	77	92	83	96	109	98	69
		17	143	127	175	172	180	165	181	147
	Lancaster Farms	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	26	20	25	32	41	25	29	0
		16	51	41	51	65	67	74	65	0
		17	113	106	107	111	116	119	132	0
	Low Newton	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	New Hall	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	15	3	3	1	0	0	0	0
		17	23	34	39	14	23	20	25	21
	Onley	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	29	22	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	62	58	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	121	116	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Parc	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	1	2	1	1	6	6	2	8
		16	4	3	4	2	10	10	22	17
		17	9	14	13	13	16	35	40	38
	Portland	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Styal	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	18	10	21	21	25	25	20	13
		16	55	35	45	39	62	46	61	26
		17	101	64	107	113	90	108	118	78

Table 1: Number of 12 to 17-year-olds in custody, as at 30 June: 2002-09

Accommodation type	Establishment	Age	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
	Styal	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Swinfen Hall	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Thorn Cross	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	2	0	2	0	2	1	0	0
		16	6	10	13	8	10	6	0	0
		17	21	17	16	16	4	13	1	0
	Warren Hill	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	9	20	24	23	23	20	23	20
		16	53	53	51	58	61	51	68	55
		17	100	87	108	106	109	115	112	106
	Werrington	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	16	11	13	24	15	18	15	11
		16	37	22	42	42	46	39	40	45
		17	68	59	60	63	70	63	61	74
	Wetherby	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	46	27	46	33	38	40	46	29
		16	85	96	76	105	77	93	93	125
		17	169	169	133	162	169	172	176	189
	Woodhill	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
		17	0	0	3	4	4	1	1	0

Table 2: Number of young people aged 18 and 19 in custody, as at 30 June: 2002-09

Age	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
18	2,161	2,069	2,067	2,070	2,159	2,249	2,170	2,215
19	2,841	2,692	2,640	2,748	2,841	3,104	3,221	3,160

HEALTH

Blood: Contamination

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of infections resulting from bacterially contaminated blood transfusions in England and Wales in the last 24 months; how many of those infections resulted in fatalities; and if he will make a statement. [323741]

Gillian Merron: The following table shows the number of patients reported to have acquired a bacterial infection from transfusion of blood components in England and North Wales (the area covered by NHS Blood and Transplant) between 1 April 2008 and 31 December 2009 (20 months). Complete data for 2009-2010 are not yet available. In total, eight recipients were reported to have received a bacterial transfusion-transmitted infection, three of whom died. There are around 2.4 million transfusions in England and Wales annually.

Financial year	*Number of infected recipients*	*Number of recipients experiencing major morbidity*[1]	*Number of fatalities*
2008-09[2]	7	5	2
2009-10[3]	1	0	1

[1] Major morbidity is defined as any symptomatic confirmed transfusion-transmitted infection.
[2] 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.
[3] Data available from 1 April 2009 to 31 December 2009 only.

Blood Donors

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much blood was donated in each London borough in each year since 2000. [323793]

Gillian Merron: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table, based on numbers of donations in each of the four main London areas.

Blood collected in London[1] and the south-east since 2000-01

	2009-10[2]	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*Total*
London North and West	54,289	55,049	51,782	52,654	61,919	62,048	67,286	61,853	55,820	51,785	574,485
City and Essex	37,421	40,420	39,414	41,912	48,489	52,723	55,102	50,368	47,231	41,211	454,291
London South West and Surrey	58,930	61,719	63,215	63,805	65,382	68,805	71,929	66,236	59,843	54,865	634,729
London South East and North Kent	53,738	56,099	58,751	60,402	64,121	70,673	73,523	68,531	64,051	58,970	628,859
Total	204,378	213,287	213,162	218,773	239,911	254,249	267,840	246,988	226,945	206,831	2,292,364

[1] Data are not collated centrally on the number of blood donations collected by London boroughs.
[2] Figures given until 21 March 2010.
Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much donated blood was used in each London *(a)* hospital and *(b)* borough in each year since 2000; [323794]

(2) how much donated blood each London *(a)* hospital and *(b)* borough had in reserve in each year since 2000; [323795]

(3) how much donated blood each London *(a)* hospital and *(b)* borough could not be used for each reason in each year since 2000. [323796]

Gillian Merron: The information is not available in the format requested. However, as soon as the available information can be produced, a copy will be placed in the Library.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department has spent on advertising to encourage people to donate blood in each London borough in each year since 2000; [323797]

(2) how much his Department plans to spend on advertising to encourage people to donate blood in each London borough in the next five years. [323799]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Vale of Clwyd (Chris Ruane) on 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 467W (for years 2001-02 and 2008-09).

Information on funds spent on marketing activities by the NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) are held for England and North Wales only and cannot be broken down by local area. NHSBT's combined budget in 2009-10 for marketing activities for blood and organ donation is £19,990,933 million[1]. The provisional total budget for 2010-11 is £16,626,941. Figures for planned advertising for 2011-12 and beyond are not yet available.

[1] The extra costs for 2009-10 were due to increased advertising needed to increase blood stock levels to 65,000 in anticipation of the flu pandemic, together with additional advertising to raise awareness of organ donation and increase the number of registrations on the organ donor register.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the quantity of blood *(a)* needed and *(b)* likely to be donated in each London (i) hospital and (ii) borough in each of the next five years. [323798]

Gillian Merron: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the table.

Distribution of donated blood across England and North Wales is co-ordinated nationally. In 2009-10, the estimated requirement for red cells across England and North Wales is 1,878,000 units, increasing to 1,896,000 units in 2010-11. The NHS Blood and Transplant's (NHSBT) planning assumptions for the next three years anticipate 1 per cent. in need.

The number of donations the National Blood Service (part of the NHSBT) is aiming to collect in London and the South East in 2009-10 and 2010-11 is shown as follows. Data for likely donations beyond 2010-11 are not yet available.

Area[1]	*Target 2009-10*	*Target 2010-11*
London North and West	55,376	67,339
City and Essex	40,615	39,050
London South East and North Kent	55,346	55,627
London South West and Surrey	63,544	60,714
Total	214,881	222,730

[1] Data are not collated centrally on the number of blood donations likely to be needed nor collected in each London hospital or borough. Available data are shown by London area.

Cervical Cancer Screening

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of women did not receive the result of a cervical screening test within two weeks of the test taking place in the latest period for which figures are available. [323419]

Ann Keen: For period 2008-09 (the latest period for which the figures are available) 78.6 per cent. of women did not receive their cervical screening test results within two weeks. However, test results were available for 21.4 per cent. of women within two weeks compared to 11.1 per cent. in 2007-08, and 65.5 per cent. were available within four weeks compared to 59.6 per cent. in 2007-08.

It is a Vital Sign of the 'NHS Operating Framework 2010-11', a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, that all women should receive the results of their cervical screening tests within two weeks by 2010. 10 pilot programmes have achieved 14-day turnaround times for at least 99 per cent. of tests and with significant reductions in failed tests and in resource requirements. This is now being rolled out across the country.

Community Hospitals: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the £750 million capital investment fund for community hospitals announced in July 2006 has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent in respect of each hospital; and whether capital or revenue funding was allocated in each case. [323912]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since July 2006, the Government have allocated around £250 million in capital funding towards 28 schemes through the Community Hospitals Programme.

The following table shows the total notional allocations made to each scheme when the programme was launched in 2006:

Primary care trust	*Scheme*	*Total notional allocation £ million (rounded)*
Sunderland Teaching	Washington Primary Care Centre	8.95
Hartlepool	Hartlepool Primary Care Facility	3.00
Stockport	St Thomas'	26.60
Calderdale PCT Kirklees PCT	Calderdale and Kirklees Community Services	13.08
Rotherham	Rotherham Primary Care Centre	0.96
North Yorkshire and York	Selby Health and Community Campus	13.04
East Riding of Yorkshire	East Riding Community Hospitals (Beverley, Hornsea and Driffield)	17.00
Nottingham County Teaching	Ashfield Community Hospital	1.15
Worcestershire	Malvern Community Hospital	19.22
Suffolk	Felixstowe General Hospital	1.76
Haringey	Hornsey Community Hospital	1.66
Barking and Dagenham	Barking Hospital	5.00
Richmond and Twickenham	Teddington Health and Social Care Centre	3.98
Barnet	Finchley Memorial Hospital	9.90
Kensington and Chelsea	St. Charles Hospital	10.50
Greenwich	Eltham and Mottingham Hospital	4.58
Hastings and Rother	Hastings Primary Health Care Centre	12.29
Eastern and Coastal Kent	Health and Social Care Centre at Kings Avenue, Ashford, Kent	9.00
Hampshire	Gosport War Memorial Hospital	6.12
Southampton	Royal South Hants Hospital	6.08
Portsmouth City Teaching	St. Mary's Community Hospital	17.10
Buckinghamshire	Thame	4.00
South Gloucestershire	Yate Community Health Centre	5.00
Somerset	Minehead Healthy Living Park	24.50
Bristol	South Bristol Community Hospital	3.90
Bath and North East Somerset	Keynsham Health Park	5.80
Gloucestershire	Berkeley Vale	6.40
Gloucestershire	North Cotswolds	13.20
Total notional allocation	—	253.77

We do not hold information centrally on local profiling of expenditure for community hospitals. It is for strategic health authorities to work with their primary care trusts to monitor progress and support local management on individual schemes.

Drugs and Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a recent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of drug and alcohol rehabilitation services in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* primary care trusts in the North West. [324102]

Gillian Merron: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for providing and commissioning health services to meet the health care needs of their local populations. It also for PCTs to consider the effectiveness of services commissioned. This includes the provision of drug and alcohol rehabilitation services.

The Department and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) provide advice, guidance and data to help PCTs better understand their local drug and alcohol service needs. Local drug commissioning partnerships are responsible for commissioning drug treatment services from national health service and voluntary sector organisations, and all partnerships will produce local drug treatment plans that set out how they plan to improve the delivery of drug treatment locally. The NTA's regional teams will monitor the performance of partnerships and the services they commission by measuring performance against locally set targets, which are set out in treatment plans.

The NTA's north-west regional team assesses the performance of the Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Action Team, and the drug services it commissions, on an annual and ongoing basis.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has for the future funding of drug and alcohol rehabilitation services; [324103]

(2) how much funding his Department made available to primary care trusts for drug and alcohol rehabilitation services in the latest period for which figures are available. [324105]

Gillian Merron: Direct central Government funding for drug treatment through the pooled treatment budget in 2010-11 is £406.7 million. In addition, an estimated £200 million is spent locally by primary care trusts on adult drug services.

No decision has been taken regarding future Government funding for drug services.

The cost of alcohol treatment is met through national health service mainstream expenditure according to local needs and priorities.

Residential rehabilitation is funded by local authority social services through their Community Care Act responsibilities.

Decisions on future funding for alcohol treatment will be made at a local level in line with local needs.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent assessment of the level of consistency across the country in criteria used by service providers to determine admittance to drug and alcohol treatment programmes. [324104]

Gillian Merron: Criteria for entry to drug and alcohol treatment programmes are determined at a local level between treatment providers and commissioners.

The Department of Health, National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have issued commissioning guidance and effectiveness reviews to assist providers and commissioners in this process.

Eyesight Testing

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to encourage people to have regular sight tests. [323371]

Ann Keen: Free sight tests are available under the national health service to large parts of the population including people aged 60 and over, children under 16, those aged 16-18 in full-time education, people on benefits, those people at particular risk of developing eye disease, and people who are registered blind or partially sighted or who have a complex spectacle prescription. Sight tests allow the opportunity to review all aspects of eye health, including investigations for signs of disease. Those at risk of specific eye disease (e.g. diabetic retinopathy) may be asked to attend regular screening.

Information about the extensive arrangements for providing help with NHS optical services and other health costs is published in leaflet HC11 "Are you entitled to help with health costs?" Posters are also available for display in optical practices and hospital out-patient departments. A copy of the leaflet has already been placed in the Library.

The uptake of NHS sight tests continues to increase. In 2008-09, there were 11.3 million NHS sight tests, an increase of 2.1 per cent. on 2007-08.

The Department is also supporting National Eye Health Week which will be held between 14 and 18 June and is aiming to promote the importance of regular sight tests.

Glaucoma: Bolton

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in Bolton have been treated for glaucoma in each of the last three years. [323372]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The information that is available is shown in the following table.

A count of finished consultant episodes[1] where there was a primary diagnosis[2] of glaucoma for the Bolton Primary Care Trust (PCT), for 2006-07 to 2008-09[3]

Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Finished consultant episodes
2008-09	48
2007-08	26
2006-07	34

[1] A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital. The ICD-10 codes that have been used to define glaucoma are H40—Glaucoma and Q15.0 Congenital glaucoma.

[3] Assessing growth through time. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Note:
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care, Hospital Episode Statistics (HES)

Health Education

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to encourage people to self-care for minor ailments, with particular reference to provision of information for *(a)* the general public and *(b)* school children; [323431]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to encourage GPs to increase the number of their patients self-caring for minor ailments. [323433]

Ann Keen: Community pharmacies already support people to self care, providing advice on how to treat or manage their minor ailments and appropriate use of over-the-counter medicines. They are conveniently located on the high street, in the community and in supermarkets. The pharmacy communications programme, currently underway, aims to raise awareness of the services available from pharmacies.

Information on self care support, including "Making the most of your pharmacist" is available through Your health, your way on NHS Choices. NHS Choices and NHS Direct offer facilities, such as online symptom checkers and self assessment tools, to help people understand where self care is appropriate in the treatment of minor ailments and when they should seek advice from medical professionals. NHS Choices also provides online advice about accidents to children at home and details a number of instances when children should be taken to hospital.

A range of material about self care and personalised care planning is available for health and social care professionals. This aims to raise awareness of the choices of self care options available and how to incorporate self care into personalised care planning discussions.

In addition, a web-based training module for clinicians and other professionals is offered through the national learning management system - Supporting Self Care was developed with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and DH e-learning for Healthcare. It is also available to GPs as part of their e-GP training materials.

The Department fully supports a greater focus on self care. With proper support from the NHS and health professionals, such as GPs and pharmacists, people can take more responsibility for their own health and wellbeing.

Health Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether primary care trusts are required to provide funding for clinical decisions and medicines included within recommendations by the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence contained in Technology Appraisal Guidance; and under what circumstances a primary care trust may decide not to fund clinical decisions and medicines within such recommendations. [324371]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Primary care trusts are legally required to make funding available for drugs and treatments recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) as part of a technology appraisal within three months of NICE'S final guidance being published. Patients also have a right to receive such treatments, where clinically appropriate, under the NHS Constitution. There is a small number of technology appraisals for which this legal requirement has been waived or amended.

Health Services: Asbestos

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress his Department has made towards establishing a network of research practitioners for asbestos-related diseases. [324093]

Gillian Merron: The written ministerial statement my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) made on 25 February, *Official Report* columns 79-83WS, expressed the Government's determination to expand research in the area of asbestos related disease.

Our first priority is to take steps to build research capacity, particularly in mesothelioma research. The Department will work to that end with the British Lung Foundation and others with a particular interest. The initiative will be supported by a donation of £3 million from the Association of British Insurers.

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) has a central role to play in maintaining strategic oversight of cancer research in the United Kingdom. The institute reported in 2006 on the state of lung cancer research. I believe the time is right for the institute to undertake a fresh review of mesothelioma research. I will write to Sir Kenneth Caiman, the Chair of the Institute, asking him to initiate such a review, and to report on its findings by the end of the summer.

The mesothelioma sub-group of the NCRI's lung cancer clinical studies group has an important role in the development of clinical trials. We will ensure the contribution the sub-group has to make is maximised.

The outcome of the NCRI review and other developments will underpin the future strategies and work of the Institute's partner funders, and will help develop the potential to drive an increase in research investment in mesothelioma and other asbestos related disease research, and will inform the Government's longer term approach. Progress on all this will be reported in the autumn.

Health Services: Devon

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding his Department allocated to health authorities in Devon *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of population for 1995-96; [323677]

(2) what funding his Department allocated to health authorities in England *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of population for 1995-96. [323678]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In 1995-96, revenue allocations for Devon were within the allocation for South Western Regional Health Authority. Revenue allocations in 1995-96 for South Western Regional Health Authority and the total for England are given in the following table, along with the allocation per head.

	1995-96	
	Allocation (£ million)	*Per-head allocation (£)*
South Western Regional Health Authority	2,953,543	450
England	23,023,897	471

Note:
Prior to 1996-97, revenue allocations were made to Regional Health Authorities.
Source:
Financial Planning and Allocations Division, Department of Health

Health Services: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's first stage report on Delivering healthcare for London: an integrated strategic plan 2010-2015, what NHS sites in London are classified as *(a)* unoccupied and *(b)* under-utilised for each reason; and to what extent each site is under-utilised. [323772]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The report "Delivering Healthcare for London—An Integrated Strategic Plan 2010-2015" is a NHS London report, not Department of Health.

Information is not available in the format requested. Since 2000-01, the Department has collected annual data on internal floor areas from national health service trusts through the Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC). Data collection on each NHS organisation's gross internal floor area and unoccupied internal floor area first began in 2000-01, with non-patient occupied floor area beginning in 2002-03.

The information provided has been supplied by the NHS and has not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Health Visitors: South West

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors have been employed in each primary care trust in the South West in each year since 1997. [323347]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified health visiting staff in the South West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area by organisation as at 30 September each year

Headcount

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
South West SHA area	1,241	1,232	1,301	1,275	1,146	1,137	1,117
Bath and North East Somerset Primary Care Trust (PCT)	54	52	54	51	49	46	43
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	92	60	78	88	83	73	78
Bristol Teaching PCT	65	89	151	138	134	122	123
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	108	110	108	114	110	107	109
Devon PCT	144	137	132	131	138	125	116
Dorset PCT	100	141	105	115	97	91	89
Gloucestershire PCT	176	154	161	152	80	129	134
North Somerset PCT	40	36	37	39	38	38	39
Plymouth Teaching PCT	78	88	87	81	67	65	70
Somerset PCT	106	55	106	133	125	112	101
South Gloucestershire PCT	57	83	71	45	46	55	52
Swindon PCT	47	52	47	39	46	43	35
Torbay Care Trust	29	29	30	29	28	26	26
Wiltshire PCT	132	132	121	111	97	95	96

Notes:
1. South West SHA area total includes a small number of staff who are employed by NHS trusts.
2. It is not possible to map accurate work force figures for these organisations prior to the formation of the PCTs in 2002.
3. The drop in numbers for Gloucestershire PCT in 2006 seems to be due to a local coding issue. It appears that around 50 health visitors were coded as district nurses in 2006, then recoded as Health Visitors in 2007.
4. Data Quality: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* out patient and *(b)* in patient waiting time was for each hospital in Sheffield for each speciality in each year since 1998. [323760]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. The information that is available has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest Referral to Treatment Time data for *(a)* Eddisbury constituency, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England. [323911]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information requested is contained in "18 Weeks Referral to Treatment Data - January 2010—Central and Eastern Cheshire, North West and England" which has been placed in the Library.

Malnutrition: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each age group were treated for malnutrition in each London borough in each year since 2000. [323788]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not held by the format requested. The following table provides a count of admissions where there was a primary diagnosis of malnutrition for patients who were treated within London strategic health authority by selected age groups.

Count of admissions[1] to hospital where there was a primary diagnosis[2] of malnutrition[3] by selected age groups for patients who were treated within London strategic health authority[4] from 2000-01 to 2008-09—Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Total	0-24 years	25-49 years	50-74 years	75+ years	Unknown
2008-09	50	6	13	17	13	1
2007-08	52	8	19	18	7	0
2006-07	45	8	9	19	9	0
2005-06	44	*	*	15	16	0
2004-05	45	*	12	20	*	0
2003-04	42	7	16	10	9	0
2002-03	48	12	9	17	9	1
2001-02	47	9	*	20	13	*
2000-01	39	9	9	13	8	0

[1] *Finished admission episodes* A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] *Primary diagnosis*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

[3] *ICD10 Clinical Codes* The ICD-10 codes for malnutrition are: E40.X Kwashiorkor E41.X Nutritional marasmus.

[4] *SHA of treatment* This field is derived from the hospital provider code (procode). It indicates the strategic health authority (SHA) area within which the treatment took place.

Notes:

1. *Small numbers* To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was still possible to identify numbers from the total an additional number.

2. *Data quality* HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

3. *Assessing growth through time* HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the cost to the NHS of treating malnutrition in each London borough in each year since 2000; [323790]

(2) whether he has made a recent estimate of the cost per bed day of treating a patient with malnutrition in each London borough. [323792]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally.

Medical Records: Children

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 641W, on medical records: children, when he expects to reach decisions on changes to the opt-out policy in respect of children's summary care records. [323905]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a complex matter on which the National Information Governance Board is considering advice. Officials are providing advice as a matter of urgency.

Medical Treatments

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish his Department's response to its consultation on the proposed transfer of responsibility for commissioning ultra-orphan treatments from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to the National Specialised Commissioning Group. [323689]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) provides advice to the national health service on promoting good health and preventing and treating ill health. NICE does not commission services.

The Department published its response to the consultation Strengthening National Commissioning on 19 March 2010. The document can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_114298

A copy has been placed in the Library.

We are now working with the National Specialised Commissioning Team to set up the new advisory group and appoint its members. We intend that the new group will become operational in time to begin commissioning services from April 2011.

The National Specialised Commissioning Group will not have a role in deciding what services are commissioned nationally. It will concentrate on regional and supra-regionally commissioned services.

Mesothelioma

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects his Department to provide updated leaflets with information for those with mesothelioma. [324094]

Ann Keen: Information for people with mesothelioma is available from the British Lung Foundation, the Department for Work and Pensions, and other sources. Information leaflets for clinicians and for the general public about the health implications of pleural plaques have been commissioned from, respectively, the British Thoracic Society and the British Lung Foundation. We understand that these leaflets will be published in the near future.

Neuromuscular Services: West Midlands

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many whole time equivalent consultant neurologists with a specialism in neuromuscular conditions are employed in the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area; [322584]

(2) how many whole time equivalent consultant paediatric neurologists with specialism in neuromuscular conditions are employed in the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area. [322585]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. However, this information may be available directly from West Midlands Strategic Health Authority.

Northwick Park Hospital: Manpower

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* managers, *(b)* nursing staff, *(c)* junior doctors and *(d)* consultants are employed at Northwick Park Hospital. [323472]

Ann Keen: Data is not available in the format requested. Data is collected by trust and is shown in the following table.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): medical, dental and non-medical staff within North West London Hospitals NHS Trust

As at 30 September 2008	*Number*
HCHS Doctors of which:	698
Consultant	208
Doctors in training and equivalents[1]	430
Professionally qualified clinical staff	2,731
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	2,006
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff (ST and T)	725
Qualified Allied Health Professions	332
Qualified Healthcare Scientists	220
Other Qualified Scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	173
Support to clinical staff	1,260
Support to doctors and nursing staff	1,050
Support to ST and T staff	210
NHS infrastructure support	400
Central functions	236
Hotel, property and estates	77
Managers and senior managers	87

[1] Doctors in training and equivalents (previously known as junior doctors) is the term used to refer to people in the registrar group, senior house officers, house officers and other staff in equivalent grades who are not in an educationally approved post.

[2] The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published, this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 574WA, on NHS finances, for what reason primary care trusts are being asked to ensure that two per cent. of their funding is committed non-recurrently. [323832]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The NHS Operating Framework for 2010-11 stated that strategic health authorities must ensure that primary care trusts do not recurrently commit the totality of their recurrent funding in their 2010-11 plans, such that at least 2 per cent. of recurrent funding at the aggregate regional level is only ever committed non-recurrently.

The reason primary care trusts need to do this is to ensure that they have flexibility in their spending plans to provide the capability to manage risk and volatility.

Primary Care Trusts: Information Officers

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* communications and *(b)* press officers are employed by each primary care trust (PCT); and how many of each group have been so employed by each PCT in each of the last five years. [323488]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold this information. The number of staff employed in communications and public relations activity is a matter that is determined locally (at PCT level) based on local communications need.

Tuberculosis

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage health services in areas with a high number of tuberculosis cases to co-ordinate their work with other public services used by those at a high risk of contracting that disease. [323669]

Gillian Merron: In June 2007, the Department published a toolkit in to help the national health service to implement the key points of the Chief Medical Officer's Action 'Plan Stopping Tuberculosis in England' (October 2004) through effective commissioning and delivery of services. A copy of the plan has already been placed in the Library. This recommended a comprehensive approach to commissioning to include a wide range of stakeholders including community services used by those at high risk (and those being treated for Tuberculosis) and through development of locally targeted health promotion and awareness raising.

TB Alert are funded by the Department to help local primary care trusts develop targeted awareness raising, much of this to be delivered through partnerships with other local services working with risk groups.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Broadband

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if his Department will take steps to ensure that broadband service providers notify their customers of traffic management arrangements applied. [323563]

Mr. Timms: Consumers need to be properly informed about the services they are paying for and it is incumbent upon service providers to make this clear to their customers. Section 27(f) of Ofcom's voluntary Code of Practice for broadband speeds calls for Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to:

"explain to the consumer in a clear and meaningful way that the actual throughput speed [...] experienced by a consumer will be influenced by a number of factors including the ISP's network capacity, the ISP's traffic shaping and management policy, the number of subscribers online at any one time, by time of day etc.".

It is important that such information is made available by all providers. Changes to the European electronic communications framework directives which were agreed at the end of 2009 require:

"undertakings providing public electronic communications networks and/or publicly available electronic communications sendees to [...] provide information on any procedures put in place by the provider to measure and shape traffic so as to avoid filling or overfilling a network link, and on how those procedures could impact on sendee quality" (Citizen's Rights amending directive article 21.3 (d)).

This Department will be bringing forward secondary legislation to implement these changes in the UK by 25 May 2011 and will consult fully on the changes over the summer.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funds have been disbursed under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme to date. [320487]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) became operational in January 2009 banks have offered loans totalling nearly £850.7 million to 8,378 businesses. It is then up to each SME to decide how much of their offered loans they wish to utilise, i.e. 'draw down'. To date, nearly 7,000 SMEs have drawn down £700.1 million of EFG-backed bank loans.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many smoking shelters have been built for his Department's staff since it was established; and at what cost. [324343]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has not built any smoking shelters for its staff since it was established.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what public information helplines his Department runs; and what contracts have been awarded by his Department for running them. [323509]

Mr. McFadden: The Department holds central information on six public information helplines. These are listed in the following table with the contract arrangements that are in place.

Helpline	*Telephone number(s)*	*Contract arrangements*
BIS Publication Orderline	0845 015 0010 0845 015 0020 0845 015 0030	BIS has a contract with EC Group to manage requests for publication services.
Business Link	0845 600 9006	BIS has a contract with BT for the main contact number that routes callers automatically to their local Business Link office.
Pay and Work Rights	0800 917 2368	This service includes the former BIS helplines for National Minimum Wage and Employment Agency Standards. BIS provides funding for the Pay and Work Rights Helpline which is a COI managed framework contract delivered by BSS.
Queens Award Office	020 7215 6880	The service is managed in-house.
BIS Export Control Organisation	020 7215 4594	The service is managed in-house.
BIS Import Licensing Branch	01642 364 333	The service is managed in-house.

Educational Institutions: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of the funding settlement for land-based education colleges for 2009-10; for what reasons the settlement for such colleges is lower than the equivalent settlement in 2008-09; and what plans he has for the level of funding for such colleges in the next five years. [323846]

Kevin Brennan: The Department routes funding through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for the provision of further education (FE) and skills training for adult learners aged 19 and over, including those attending the 16 specialist land-based colleges in England.

In the 2008/09 academic year the LSC allocated £23,377,000 to specialist land-based colleges to deliver Adult Learner Responsive provision (ALR) and £22,684,000 for 2009/10. Although the allocations for five land-based colleges increased, there was an overall decrease in ALR allocation between 2008/09 and 2009/10. Across the FE and skills sector there was a decrease in ALR funding that reflected a commitment to increase funding for Train to Gain and Apprenticeships and away from Developmental Learning. Development Learning is defined as provision that is not aligned to one of the priority qualification categories: these are Full Level 2 (equivalent to 5 GCSEs at A*-C), Full Level 3 (2 A Levels or equivalent), Level 4, Foundation Learning and Skills for Life.

Funding allocations for 2010/11 academic year have not yet been finalised but final allocation letters are due to be sent to FE Colleges and Training Organisations from the end of March. The scale of future settlements is dependent on the outcome of the ongoing comprehensive spending review.

General Agreement on Trade in Services: EU Action

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with the European Commission Directorate-General of Trade on the inclusion of Mode 4 provision in EU trade agreements. [324095]

Ian Lucas: The European Commission negotiates on behalf of member states on all trade in services issues, including Mode 4, at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and in negotiations to establish in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs).

The Commission regularly consults member states on the content of relevant trade in services negotiations, including on Mode 4.

Formally, this consultation takes place via the Trade Policy Committee (TPC), especially the TPC (Services and Investment) which generally meets fortnightly and which is attended by officials from my Department.

Higher Education: Admissions

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding was allocated by the Learning and Skills Council for development projects at each higher education establishment in London for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and how much of that funding has been received by each establishment. [323784]

Kevin Brennan: No funding has been allocated by the Learning and Skills Council for development projects at any higher education establishment in London for the period 2008-11.

Higher Education: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which higher education establishments in *(a)* London and *(b)* England have been assessed as in financial difficulty consequent on approved funding bids from the Learning and Skills Council not proceeding; what assessment has been made of the development costs written off by each higher education establishment in (i) London and (ii) England in respect of those bids; which of those establishments have received financial assistance from the Learning and Skills Council; and what the monetary value is of the assistance provided to each such establishment. [323785]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council has not approved any capital project funding bids from higher education establishments in the last five years either on an in principle or a detailed basis and has, therefore, made no such assessments nor offered such financial assistance.

Internet

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if his Department will bring forward proposals to ensure that internet protocol throughput is not subject to traffic management measures; and if he will make a statement. [323546]

Mr. Timms: There are several legitimate reasons why a network provider may need to introduce traffic management measures, particularly in order to avoid network congestion; ensure delivery of e-mail services or to avoid poor performance. There is currently no evidence that network providers in the UK are using traffic management in illegitimate ways.

The legitimate uses of traffic management are recognised by the new provision in Article 22 of the Universal Services Directive which addresses "Quality of Service" issues. Article 22.3 states that:

"In order to prevent the degradation of service and the hindering or slowing down of traffic over networks, Member States shall ensure that national regulatory authorities are able to set minimum quality of service requirements on an undertaking or undertakings providing public communications networks".

Recital 34 suggests that such measures

"should be subject to scrutiny by the national regulatory authorities, [...], in order to ensure that they do not restrict competition"

This Department is currently working on implementing this and related provisions, and will be consulting in due course.

Manganese Bronze

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has had discussions with representatives of Manganese Bronze in Coventry on its decision to transfer the manufacture of key components to China. [323640]

Ian Lucas: The Department has regular meetings with LTI Ltd. (as part of Manganese Bronze Holdings plc) on a range of issues.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what financial assistance his Department provided to Manganese Bronze between 2007 and 2009. [323641]

Ian Lucas: LTI Ltd., as part of Manganese Bronze Holdings plc, has participated in the Vehicle Scrappage Scheme which was launched in May 2009.

On 17 March 2010, Manganese Bronze stated that 223 vehicles were sold under the scheme in 2009—which equates to Government support of £223,000.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will meet representatives of Manganese Bronze to discuss the future of the company's manufacturing operations in Coventry. [323642]

Ian Lucas. The Department has regular meetings with LTI Ltd. (as part of Manganese Bronze Holdings plc) on a range of issues including manufacturing at Coventry.

Post Offices: National Lottery

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on sub-post offices of the National Lottery Commission's proposal to permit lottery terminals to provide *(a)* bill payments, *(b)* mobile telephone top-ups and *(c)* other commercial services; [322906]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely change in bill payment income for sub-post offices as a result of the National Lottery Commission's proposal to permit lottery terminals to provide commercial services. [322907]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* Camelot's proposal to provide commercial services through lottery terminals is still subject to the regulatory approval of the National Lottery Commission. If the commission consents to Camelot's proposal, Post Office Limited will carry out an assessment of the impact on sub post offices.

Qualifications and Curriculum Framework: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 902W, on the Qualifications and Curriculum Framework: finance, whether planned expenditure by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the Skills Funding Agency on the Qualifications and Curriculum Framework (QCF) includes the estimated £40 million for IT costs in the LSC QCF Business Change Strategy referred to in footnote 2 of the paper prepared for the LSC National Council meeting on 10 September 2008, number LSC 52/2008; and if he will make a statement. [323992]

Kevin Brennan: The figure of £40 million referred to in the LSC document was an estimate of costs. Subsequent consideration led to a much-reduced figure such that actual spend on IT-related business change for the QCF was £0.47 million in 2008-09, and is expected to be around £2.14 million in 2009-10. These figures were included in the table given in my previous answer.

Radio Frequencies

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if his Department will take steps to protect the high frequency spectrum for use in long-range communications from power line technology devices. [323208]

Mr. Timms: The Department for Business innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Office of Communications (Ofcom) are aware of this long-standing area of concern. Ofcom is responsible for the UK management of the radio spectrum. Ofcom has commissioned an independent study into the likelihood and extent of radio frequency interference caused by Power Line Technology apparatus. This study is virtually complete and is expected to be published next month. BIS and Ofcom will then review any action that might be necessary based on this report.

World War II: Lapel Badges

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representations he has received on a proposed lapel badge for those who were conscripted to work in munitions factories in the Second World War; and if he will make a statement. [323837]

Mr. McFadden: Government truly value the important wartime contributions and sacrifices made by all civilian workers.

The Department has received 23 representations over the last two years seeking formal recognition for civilian workers during world war two.

Careful consideration has been given to this issue. However, there are no present plans to introduce a lapel badge.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to answer question *(a)* 321887 on his Department's initiatives and *(b)* 321888 on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme, tabled on 10 March 2010; and if he will make a statement. [324388]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 23 March, *Official Report*, column 256W, and the answer I gave on 24 March, *Official Report*, column 401W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Tuberculosis

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to improve the mechanisms used to measure the progress and effectiveness of the tuberculosis control programmes funded by his Department. [323667]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) aims to ensure that all organisations supported by UK aid have robust systems to monitor and measure their impact. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) reports regularly against targets and continually analyses how their monitoring and reporting systems can be improved. DFID is providing £6 billion to strengthen health systems in developing counties from 2008-15. A significant portion of this funding is being used to develop health information management systems that will assist in measuring the progress and effectiveness of tuberculosis control programmes.

Many tuberculosis control programmes have reported 80 per cent. cure rates using the Directly Observed Therapy, Short-course (DOTS) monitoring system. DOTS is an effective strategy supported by the World Health Organisation and used by many programmes supported by DFID to monitor their success.

International Assistance

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1416W, on international assistance, if he will publish his Department's Health Portfolio Review. [324177]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) health portfolio review will be published later this year and will be available at

www.dfid.gov.uk

TREASURY

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of each. [324413]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury's accounting system does not identify spending by event and the information for HM Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

The Debt Management Office held just one official hospitality event in the past three years to mark the 10th anniversary of the organisation at a cost of £9,000.

Maternity Benefits

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of take-up is of the health in pregnancy grant in each local authority. [324107]

Mr. Timms: The 'Health in Pregnancy Grant' is a one-off, tax-free payment from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) for mothers-to-be who are at least 25 weeks pregnant to help them prepare for the birth of their baby. Further information is available at:

http://campaigns2.direct.gov.uk/money4mum2be/en/

The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, due to the complexity of estimating the overall number of mothers-to-be who are eligible for the Health in Pregnancy Grant.

Royal Bank of Scotland: Loans

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions officials of UK Financial Investments Ltd have had with representatives of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) on the level of lending by RBS to small businesses. [324183]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Both HM Treasury and UK Financial investments officials hold frequent discussions with the Royal Bank of Scotland on a range of topics. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such discussions.

Smuggling: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the prevalence of alcohol diversion fraud; and whether he has plans to take steps to reduce the incidence of such fraud. [323842]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Diversion of alcohol without payment of excise duty is the most prevalent form of alcohol fraud. Estimates of tax losses are produced by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) annually for spirits, the latest of which are published in 'Measuring Tax Gaps—2009'. This publication is available in the House of Commons Library. Reliable estimates for wine and beer are not yet available.

In Budget 2009, the Chancellor announced a comprehensive programme of work for 2009-10 involving HMRC and UK Border Agency renewing their strategy to tackle alcohol fraud. The strategy comprises measures to prevent fraud as well as tackle evasion and criminality, and has three broad themes:

Changing the law—to make life tougher for criminals and easier for honest businesses;

Working with honest businesses—to secure legitimate supply chains and make it harder for criminals to source alcohol; and

Strengthening operational response—to co-ordinate efforts to detect, disrupt and dismantle organised criminal networks and illicit supply chains.

HMRC is currently in the process of implementing this strategy.

Taxation: Car Washes

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* value added tax, *(b)* corporation tax and *(c)* income tax revenue foregone as a result of illegal car washing operations in each of the last three years. [323845]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs conducts inquires each year into many thousands of people operating in the hidden economy, including in car washing and valeting services. However, no assessment has been made of the tax losses from this sector above.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of tax credits overpayments written off in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 as a result of (i) official and (ii) claimant error; and if he will make a statement. [318368]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) Code of Practice 26 'What happens if we've paid you too much tax credit?' explains its approach to tax credits overpayments and the circumstances in which customers may not have to pay them back. It is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop26.pdf

(i) Information about the value of disputed tax credits overpayments written off in each year from 2005-06 to 2008-09 is in the table:

	Value of disputed written overpayments written off (£000)
2005-06	180,016
2006-07	9,042
2007-08	7,276
2008-09	28,242

(ii) HMRC does not record the value of overpayments written off as a result of claimant error.

CABINET OFFICE

Business: Berkshire

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the number of small businesses which have closed in *(a)* Reading East constituency and *(b)* Berkshire in each year since 1997. [324827]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small businesses have closed in *(a)* Reading East constituency and *(b)* Berkshire in each year since 1997. [324827]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available for 2002 onwards from the ONS release on Business Demography at

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available on business deaths for Reading East and Berkshire.

Deaths of enterprises for Reading east parliamentary constituency and the former county of Berkshire for enterprises with less than 50 employment (small)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Reading East	[1]	[1]	[1]	528	523	496	507
Former County of Berkshire	3,770	4,212	4,121	3,778	3,621	3,609	3,570
Bracknell Forest UA	445	469	509	480	459	385	434
Reading UA	710	791	647	630	650	595	628
Slough UA	455	476	507	397	401	400	381
West Berkshire UA	700	810	830	722	706	751	762
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	775	999	848	611	708	768	760

[1] Data not available

Notes

1. The former county of Berkshire is the area now covered by the Unitary Authorities of Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham, all created on 1 April 1998.
2. A small business is defined as an enterprise with less than 50 employment

Census

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the schedule is for printing 2011 Census forms; and how many Census forms she expects to be printed in each month from March 2011 to the date of the Census. [323448]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As the Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the schedule is for printing 2011 Census forms; and how many census forms are expected to be printed in each month from March 2010 to the date of the census. (323448)

Initial printing of the questionnaires is running from March 2010 to July 2010 and once this is complete a second process of overprinting will begin, during which the barcodes, unique identifiers and internet access codes will be printed onto each questionnaire.

Current expectations are that for the initial printing stage the numbers of questionnaires printed each month will be approximately:

	Million
March 2010	8
April 2010	9
May 2010	9
June 2010	10
July 2010	3

During August 2010 ONS will be undertaking testing processes and undertaking further quality assurance of the processing procedures.

Once the initial printing process is complete a second process of overprinting will begin, during which the barcodes, unique identifiers and internet access codes will be printed onto each questionnaire. This process will run from July 2010 until March 2011.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what methodology will be used to count (*a*) people in immigration removal centres and (*b*) asylum seekers in the 2011 Census. [323453]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As the Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what methodology will be used to count (a) people in immigration removal centres and (b) asylum seekers in the 2011 Census. (323453)

ONS will count those people in immigration removal centres in the same manner as it will count people in prison. ONS have liaised with the Ministry of Justice to develop procedures for enumerating prisoners, and are currently in discussion with the UK Borders Agency to extend this planning to cover immigration removal centres.

Specially trained field staff will visit such establishments and work with the management to ensure that census returns are made in respect of all inmates. Three prisons were included in the 2009 Census Rehearsal to ensure that plans for the 2011 Census are effective and practical.

Where asylum seekers are living in the community, Census field staff will not know whether or not they are asylum seekers, and the census questionnaire will not seek this information. Such people will be enumerated via a combination of special enumeration and general enumeration procedures dependent on their length of intended residence and their place of residence. Both language support and translation services will be available. In addition, field staff will have received specific training in how to best encourage people to complete a questionnaire and deal with refusals. There will also be a tailored publicity and communications strategy to accompany this.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 987W, on Census, (1) what the quantified discounted benefit is of the additional questions contained in the 2011 Census; [323568]

(2) what the quantified discounted benefit was of the (*a*) 1991 and (*b*) 2011 Census exercises in real terms, adjusting for inflation and population growth. [323569]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As the Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking, pursuant to the Answer to the Rt. Hon. Member for Horsham of 1 March 2010, Official Report, column 987W, on Census, what the quantified discounted benefit is of the additional questions contained in the 2011 Census, (323568); and pursuant to the Answer to the Rt. Hon. Member for Horsham of 1 March 2010, Official Report, column 987W on Census, what the quantified discounted benefit was of the (a) 1991 and (b) 2011 Census exercises in real terms, adjusting for inflation and population growth. (323569)

The quantified discounted benefit has only been calculated for the 2011 Census programme as a whole; specific figures for the net increase of 6 individual questions per person (with no increase in household questions), have not been calculated in financial terms. However, the uses of each question have been extensively explored and well documented. Reports into the development and the uses of the questions for the 2011 Census are available to download on the ONS website.

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-questionnaire-content/question-and-content-recommendations-for-2011/index.html

As explained in the previous answer referred to in your question, the quantified discounted benefit for the 2011 Census has been estimated to be circa £750 million, however these benefits only relate to an estimated half of the uses of census data of which ONS is aware and so this figure is considered to be a very significant under-estimate.

This is the first time that quantified, discounted benefits have been calculated for a census therefore no figures exist for the 1991 or 2001 Censuses.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office over what geographic area the estimated £482 million expenditure on the 2011 Census is to be incurred. [324022]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As the Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking over what geographic area the estimated £482 million expenditure on the 2011 Census is to be incurred. (324022)

This figure is the cost estimated by ONS to cover the undertaking of the 2011 Census in England and Wales.

Deaths: Malnutrition

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many deaths attributed to a malnutrition-related condition there were of people in each age group in each London borough in each year since 2000; [323786]

(2) how many deaths of people resident in *(a)* private and *(b)* public care homes who had a malnutrition-related condition there were in each London borough in each year since 2000. [323787]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

1. How many deaths attributed to a malnutrition-related condition there were of people in each age group in each London borough in each year since 2000 (323786)

2. How many deaths of people resident in (a) private and (b) public care homes who had a malnutrition-related condition there were in each London borough in each year since 2000 (323787).

Internationally accepted guidance from the World Health Organisation requires only those conditions that contributed directly to death to be recorded on the death certificate. Medical practitioners and coroners are not supposed to record all of the diseases or conditions present at or before death. Whether a condition contributed is a matter for their clinical judgement.

There is no official definition of a 'malnutrition-related condition'. The tables attached provide the number of deaths where:

1. Malnutrition was the underlying cause of death, by broad age group, in each London borough, in the years 2000 to 2008 (the latest year available) combined (Table 1).

2. Malnutrition or effects of hunger were mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor, by broad age group, in each London borough, in the years 2000 to 2008 combined (Table 2). Figures in Table 2 include those in Table 1.

3. Malnutrition or effects of hunger were mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor, in (a) private care homes and (b) public care homes in the London government office region, in each year from 2000 to 2008 (Table 3).

There were (a) two deaths in a public care home where malnutrition was the underlying cause of death, in the London government office region, in the years 2000 to 2008 combined.[1,2,3,4]

More detailed breakdowns of the figures provided would include extremely small numbers of deaths in each London borough, age group or category, and might allow the identification of individuals. Consequently this level of detail has not been provided, in line with ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics.[5]

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 (malnutrition) for the year 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where one of these causes was the underlying cause of death. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from malnutrition before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[2] 'Private care home' includes non-NHS private nursing homes and private residential homes; 'Public care home' includes NHS private nursing homes and local authority residential homes.

[3] Figures are based on boundaries as of 2010.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in the calendar years 2000-08 combined.

[5] The ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/ConfidentialityBirth&Death.pdf

Table 1: Deaths where malnutrition was the underlying cause of death,[1] by age group, for each London borough,[2] 2000-08[3]

Deaths (persons)

London borough	0-44	45-74	75+
Barking and Dagenham	0	1	1
Barnet	1	0	0
Bexley	0	0	0
Brent	1	0	2
Bromley	0	1	1
Camden	0	0	1
City of London	0	0	0
Croydon	0	0	1
Ealing	1	1	0
Enfield	1	1	0
Greenwich	0	0	0
Hackney	0	2	2
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0	2
Haringey	0	0	1
Harrow	0	0	0
Havering	0	0	1
Hillingdon	0	2	2
Hounslow	1	1	2
Islington	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	0	1	0
Kingston upon Thames	1	0	1
Lambeth	0	2	6
Lewisham	1	0	0
Merton	0	1	1
Newham	0	2	0
Redbridge	1	0	0
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0
Southwark	0	1	1
Sutton	0	1	1
Tower Hamlets	1	0	3
Waltham Forest	0	1	1

Table 1: Deaths where malnutrition was the underlying cause of death,[1] by age group, for each London borough,[2] 2000-08[3]

	Deaths (persons)		
London borough	*0-44*	*45-74*	*75+*
Wandsworth	0	2	2
Westminster	0	2	1

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 (malnutrition) for the year 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where these codes were the underlying cause of death. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the number of deaths from malnutrition before 2001 is not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Figures based on boundaries as of 2010.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in the calendar years 2000-08 combined.

Table 2: Deaths where malnutrition and effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate,[1] by age group, for each London borough,[2] 2000-08[3]

	Deaths (persons)		
London borough	*0-44*	*45-74*	*75+*
Barking and Dagenham	0	2	2
Barnet	2	3	4
Bexley	0	3	2
Brent	1	3	3
Bromley	1	2	5
Camden	0	5	3
City of London	0	0	1
Croydon	1	1	3
Ealing	3	6	4
Enfield	1	2	3
Greenwich	1	1	2
Hackney	0	3	8
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	5	2
Haringey	1	0	1
Harrow	0	1	1
Havering	0	1	2
Hillingdon	0	2	7
Hounslow	1	1	4
Islington	0	3	2
Kensington and Chelsea	2	3	2
Kingston upon Thames	1	0	1
Lambeth	1	9	10
Lewisham	3	0	1
Merton	0	2	3
Newham	1	4	1
Redbridge	2	1	2
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	2
Southwark	1	5	4
Sutton	0	1	4
Tower Hamlets	1	3	7
Waltham Forest	0	2	1
Wandsworth	0	6	9
Westminster	3	6	8

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 (malnutrition) and E904.1 (effects of hunger) for the year 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) and T73.0 (effects of hunger) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where one or more of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from these causes before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Figures based on boundaries as of 2010.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in the calendar years 2000-08 combined.

Table 3: Deaths where malnutrition and effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate,[1] in private and public care homes,[2] in London government office region,[3] 2000-08[4]

	Deaths (persons)	
	Private care home	*Public care home*
2000	1	2
2001	2	0
2002	0	0
2003	2	0
2004	1	0
2005	2	0
2006	2	0
2007	1	0
2008	1	0

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 (malnutrition) and E904.1 (effects of hunger) for the year 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) and T73.0 (effects of hunger) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where one or more of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] 'Private care home' includes non-NHS private nursing homes and private residential homes; 'Public care home' includes NHS private nursing homes and local authority residential homes.
[3] Figures are based on boundaries as of 2010.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Employment

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the re-employment rate is for *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector workers whose jobs have been relocated offshore; and if she will make a statement. [323582]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the re-employment rate for (a) public and (b) private sector workers whose jobs have been offshored. (323582)

The requested information is not available.

Government Departments: Data Sharing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps her Department is taking to facilitate data sharing between Government departments and agencies. [323962]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

As part of 'Putting the frontline first: Smarter Government', the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has been tasked with making it easier for public services to join up by establishing a set of common protocols and reviewing the legal framework that governs the way in which public services exchange information. MOJ is delivering on this objective through a variety of work streams, including:

revising the departmental 2003 legal guidance on data sharing;

developing Government guidance on privacy impact assessments;

liaising with the Information Commissioner's Office on its statutory code of practice on data sharing;

consulting other Government Departments on the further guidance and information sharing protocols they need; and

exploring in more detail the barriers to the exchange of information between public services, and how legislative and non-legislative options might reduce these barriers and ensure proportionate and lawful information exchange can take place to improve public services, while ensuring that individuals' personal data is protected.

Government Departments: Publications

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what occasions the UK Statistics Authority has written to Government departments and agencies on the presentation of statistics. [323566]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Sir Michael Scholar KCB, dated 22 March 2010:

As Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, I am replying to your recent parliamentary question asking on what occasions the UK Statistics Authority has written to Government departments and agencies on their presentation of statistics; and what the subject was of each such communication [323566].

Correspondence between the Chair of the UK Statistics Authority and Government Departments, agencies, and public bodies about the presentation of statistics and other matters is published on the Statistics Authority website at:

http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence /correspondence/index.html

Private Sector: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many UK-born working age people were employed in the private sector *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* on the most recent date for which data are available. [324195]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many UK-born working age people were employed in the private sector (a) in each year since 1997 and (b) on the most recent date for which data are available. (324195)

The available information is provided in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The distinction between public and private sector is based on respondents' views about the organisation for which they work.

As with any sample survey, the estimates provided are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

UK-born people of working age in employment in the private sector[1], three month period ending December, 1997 to 2009, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Thousand
	Level
1997	18,354
1998	18,615
1999	18,816
2000	18,781
2001	18,935
2002	18,948
2003	18,877
2004	18,785
2005	18,622
2006	18,663
2007	18,617
2008	18,206
2009[2]	*17,710

[1] It should be noted that the private sector estimates are based on survey respondents' views about the organisation for which they work and therefore do not correspond to the National Accounts definition used to define Public and Private Sector Employment estimates.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness:

* 0 ≤ CV< 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

Source:

Labour Force Survey

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people of each sex in each age group from each country have been awaiting a decision on an application for asylum at each location in each year since 1997; [319528]

(2) how many people are awaiting a decision on an application for asylum. [319654]

Alan Johnson: Information is published quarterly on the number of asylum applicants awaiting an initial decision and as at the end of December 2009, the latest published period, the total was 6,900 (excluding dependents). This figure is derived from the cumulative effect of applications received, decisions made, and applications withdrawn, applied to the total outstanding cases figure produced from the manual count at the end of August 2001. Figures are rounded to nearest 100. The original manual count was a total figure only and consequently the figure cannot be broken down by nationality, gender and age.

Information on asylum applications is published annually in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom bulletin and on a quarterly basis in the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary.

These publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications were awaiting resolution by the UK Border Agency on the latest date for which figures are available. [322330]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency has just over 34,700 cases in NAM (New Asylum Model) that have not been concluded as at the end of February 2010, the

majority of which are awaiting removal. These cases are being actively managed. Figure is rounded to the nearest 100.

This data does not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Information on asylum applications is published annually in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom bulletin and on a quarterly basis in the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary.

These publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes in staffing levels at the UK Border Agency have been made to handle the caseload of *(a)* legacy asylum cases and *(b)* standard asylum applications since 2007. [322836]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency has anticipated the need to increase resources in line with its targets and has recruited sufficient case owners in each of its regions to continue to improve the time taken to reach an initial decision.

The UK Border Agency's regions are now fully responsible for the development of the required flexible work force, and will be investing in case owner development and managing regionally-based recruitment campaigns as necessary so that staff can carry out a variety of functions and respond to fluctuations in intake.

Asylum: Scotland

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum legacy cases arising in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 the UK Border Agency is dealing with in (i) Glasgow North East constituency, (ii) the City of Glasgow and (iii) Scotland. [322869]

Mr. Woolas: All cases being dealt with by the Case Resolution Directorate were lodged prior to March 2007. Therefore, there are no applications submitted post-2007 that are being dealt with in the Legacy programme.

Departmental Energy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department plans to take to participate in the Earth Hour event on 27 March 2010. [319095]

Mr. Woolas: On 27 March 2010 the Home Office will again support Earth Hour. Non-operational lights will be turned off at our major locations. Last year my Department ran a 'switch it off' campaign to coincide with the Earth Hour to encourage staff to switch off lights, computers and printers at work and to participate at home as well. Across several of our major locations the lights were turned off and as a result 2,491 kilogrammes of carbon dioxide was saved compared to a preceding period. We plan to take part in the event in the same way this year.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which companies his Department sourced temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff his Department employed in each year; and what the monetary value of the contracts with each such company was in each such year. [320011]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department sources temporary staff of all kinds from a range of companies from small-scale, niche suppliers to large companies with national coverage. Since such individuals are not Home Office employees, the amalgamated information sought is not held centrally and attempting to assemble it could not be undertaken without incurring disproportionate cost. In terms of monetary values, the Department is able to provide the following information on its expenditure in the last three years through contracts with some of its leading suppliers of temporary staff in those years. The spend in this category is being realigned and is currently reckoned at some £13 million per annum, which in 2008-09 represented less than 1 per cent. of total expenditure by the Home Office and its agencies of £1,749 million. All figures provided are subject to accounting adjustment and amendment.

Supplier	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*£ million 2007-08*
Hays Executive	3.4	2.1	1.4
Manpower Inc	3.5	2.0	1.0
OGC/Buying Solutions	3.3	1.1	0.1
MPS Group Inc.	1.9	1.5	0.9
TAC Technology Project Services	2.5	0.8	0.1
Office Angels Ltd.	1.4	1.1	0.2
James Reed and Partners plc	1.1	0.8	0.4
Methods Holdings Ltd.	0.8	1.1	0.3
Hudson Highland Group Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.8
Parity Group plc	1.0	1.0	n/a
Interquest Group plc	0.7	0.7	0.7

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months. [320394]

Mr. Woolas: Contracted expenditure by the Home Department, inclusive of the UKBA and the Criminal Records Bureau, on first class rail travel by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade for the period 1 February 2009 to 10 January 2010 is as follows:

Table 1: First class rail travel

	Home Office/UKBA	£ CRB
Ministers	16,570	
Staff grades:		
Senior Civil Service (SCS)	214,145	39,917
Grade 6	342,378	17,682
Grade 7	781,329	50,761
SEO	701,693	66,579
HEO	137,890	21,796
HEOD	5,065	—
HMI	13,940	—
CIO	3,535	—
EO	63,595	6,781
IO	3,709	—
PS	2,642	—
AO	25,666	2,444
AA	1,152	376
Grade unspecified	81,979	9,332

Contracted expenditure by the Home Department, inclusive of the UKBA and the Criminal Records Bureau on first class air travel by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade for the period 1 February 2009 to 10 January 2010 is as follows:

Table 2: First class air travel

	Home Office/UKBA	£ CRB
Minister	348	0
Staff grades:		
SEO	351	0
HEO	348	0

Note:
In a small number of journeys staff were upgraded to first class at no additional cost.

Total expenditure by the Identity and Passport Service on first class rail travel by all staff for the period January to December 2009 was £873,042. A breakdown of expenditure by grade could be made available only at disproportionate cost. There was no expenditure on first class air travel by the Identity and Passport Service.

Detention Centres

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many incidents of self-harm by *(a)* women, *(b)* men, *(c)* children under 18 years old and *(d)* children under 10 years old requiring medical treatment there were at each immigration removal centre in the UK in each of the last six years; [321099]

(2) how many incidents of self-harm by *(a)* women, *(b)* men, *(c)* children under 18 years old and *(d)* children under 10 years old were recorded at each immigration removal centre in the UK in each of the last six years. [321100]

Mr. Woolas: We do not record centrally every incident of self harm, only those incidents where medical treatment was required. The figures represent the total in each financial year for when data was available for Immigration Removal Centres.

	Number
2009-10[1]	[2]145
2008-09	174
2007-08	163
2006-07	197
2005-06	232

[1] Includes figures for Brook House Immigration Removal Centre which opened towards the end of March 2009.
[2] As at the end of January

There are over 2,500 people in removal centres at any one time. In 2009, we published for the first time, data on the number of people entering detention. In 2009-10 to the end of January, 20,805 people came into immigration removal centres.

This data is normally used for management information only and is not subject to the detailed checks that apply for national statistics publications. It is provisional and subject to change. Published national statistics on the number of adults and children held in detention solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly and are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

We take the safety of those in our care very seriously, and operate a system called Assessment Care in Detention and Teamwork (ACDT) to identify and help those who are at risk of suicide or self harm. Notices in various languages are displayed around Centres setting out that, where there is a concern about a fellow detainee, this should be brought to the attention of a member of staff.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hunger strikes were recorded at each immigration removal centre in the UK in each of the last six years; and how many of them involved *(a)* male parents detained with their children, *(b)* female parents detained with their children, *(c)* children aged under 18 years old and *(d)* children aged under 10 years old. [321101]

Mr. Woolas: There has been inaccurate reporting in the media of a hunger strike at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre. While a small number of detainees were refusing formal meals from the canteen, we are aware that they have accessed food from the centre's shop, vending machines and social visitors. They were all also drinking.

We only record information on detainees who have missed four consecutive meals, excluding breakfast. Such detainees miss meals for a number of reasons, including fasting due to their religious faith. We do not record the number who state they are refusing food in protest at a particular issue.

All those who miss meals are monitored closely by the centre, including health care, where they will receive advice on diet and welfare issues.

The UK Border Agency and the Centre management engage closely with such detainees to understand the reason for them missing meals and to seek to resolve any underlying problems.

Entry Clearances: Kosovo

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Kosovan citizens of Serb extraction may enter the UK using passports issued in Belgrade. [323643]

Mr. Woolas: Since 2008, passports issued by the competent Kosovan authorities have been accepted for travel to the United Kingdom (UK). These documents are generally issued by the Kosovan authorities in Pristina. Serbian passports, which are issued by the competent Serbian authorities, are also accepted for travel to the UK.

Both Serbian and Kosovan nationals require visas before travelling to the UK and are subject to immigration control on arrival.

The UK Border Agency is unable to comment on whether Kosovan citizens of Serbian extraction would qualify for a Serbian national passport. This would be a matter for the Serbian authorities.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect on numbers of English language schools of recent changes to the Tier 4 points-based immigration system. [321823]

Mr. Woolas: These changes came into force on 3 March and we continually monitor Tier 4 to ensure its effectiveness. Our policies are carefully balanced to protect the integrity of the UK's immigration system while safeguarding the ability for genuine international students who wish to study here.

Identity Cards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Identity and Passport Service has had discussions with (i) the Local Government Association, (ii) London councils, (iii) passenger transport executives and (iv) local authorities on the use of identity cards to help administer the concessionary bus fare scheme. [323808]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 23 March 2010]:* There have been no such discussions. However, identity cards and the National Identity Register should provide a number of opportunities to deliver public services more efficiently and effectively in the future.

Identity Cards: Fees and Charges

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Identity and Passport Service had collected in fees from people issued with identity cards on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [323936]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) has collected approximately £115,000 in identity card fees to the end of February 2010.

The IPS Annual Report and Accounts for 2009-10 will include audited disclosure of operational identity card income and expenditure.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the cost to applicants of the new model of identity card due to be issued in 2012; and if he will make a statement. [323937]

Meg Hillier: From 2012, the Identity and Passport Service will extend the rollout of identity cards across the United Kingdom, alongside the introduction of second generation biometric passports, but there are no formal plans to introduce a new model of identity card.

The fee for an identity card is £30 in 2009 and 2010, as set out in the March 2008 National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan. The level of fees that will apply in the future has not been finalised and will depend on the future fee strategy for passports and identity cards.

Immigration

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will review the mechanisms by which his Department considers immigration applications from adults who arrived in the UK as children for the purposes of ensuring consistency in his Department's decisions on whether to grant leave to remain in such cases; and if he will make a statement. [317380]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* There is a range of categories under which a child may arrive in the United Kingdom and who may stay into adulthood. The specific criteria and application consideration will vary for each respective category and it is therefore not possible to be consistent across the board.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications held by the Legacy caseworking team at the UK Border Agency were awaiting allocation to a caseworker on the latest date for which figures are available. [322350]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 March 2010]:* No cases are currently awaiting allocation to a case owner. On 17 December 2007 every Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) case was allocated to a case owner.

Immigration: Detainees

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees held at immigration removal centres have required *(a)* medical treatment and *(b)* hospital treatment in each of the last two years. [323503]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The information requested is not recorded centrally and could be provided only by examination of individual records which would be at disproportionate cost.

However, each immigration removal centre provides on-site medical care 24 hours a day. All detainees are seen by a nurse for a health screening within two hours of arrival at a centre and are given an appointment to see the GP within 24 hours. GPs see detainees earlier if

required. Thereafter, they access health care on demand, subject to a triage service similar to that found in GP surgeries in the community.

Secondary treatment is provided by the local primary care trust by way of a referral from healthcare.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times police have been called to each UK Border Agency immigration removal centre in each of the last two years. [323505]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The data requested are not recorded at immigration removal centres and could be provided by the UK Border Agency by only examination of individual security records at each centre at disproportionate cost.

The police might be called for a variety of different reasons, including where an offence may have been committed such as an attempt to import drugs into a centre, or to assist with managing disturbances.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 14 December 2009 from the hon. Member for Aylesbury on behalf of Mr. R. V. of Aylesbury, acknowledged by his Department on 21 December 2009. [322933]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* The reply letter was sent out on 18 March 2010.

Ministers' Private Offices

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure his private office incurred on *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* travel and *(c)* overnight subsistence in each of the last five years. [317766]

Alan Johnson: The expenditure incurred on entertainment, travel and overnight subsistence in Private Office for the last two financial years is as follows. Information relating to years before this is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

2008-09

Entertainment: £2,719

Travel: £111,269

Overnight subsistence: £5,192

2009-10 (to February)

Entertainment: £727

Travel: £46,260

Overnight subsistence: £13,570

The term 'entertainment' encompasses working lunches, tea and coffees and sandwiches for all meetings attended by outside stakeholders.

National Identity Register

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether local authorities will have access to the National Identity Register for the purposes of the administration of free bus travel for those aged 60 years and over. [323809]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 23 March 2010]:* Information cannot be provided to a local authority from the national identity register without further secondary legislation and there are no current plans to do so for the administration of concessionary bus passes. However, an individual may choose to show an identity card to a local authority or to anyone else to help verify their identity, including age.

Police: Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department allocated for the *(a)* recruitment and *(b)* training of police officers in each year since 1997. [317611]

Alan Johnson: The Home Office does not allocate specific grants for recruitment of police officers and since 2008-09 the former specific grant for the Initial Police Learning Development Programme has been absorbed into the main police grant at the level prevailing in 2007-08 of £16.2 million. Expenditure on recruitment and training is a matter for each individual police force.

Centrex prior to its abolition, and since 1 April 2007, the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), through National Assessment Centres has managed the recruitment of police officers funded from its overall grant in aid from the Home Office.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding his Department has allocated to Devon and Cornwall police for 2009-10 *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of population. [323672]

Mr. Hanson: The information is as follows:

(a) The information available can be found in the following table:

Devon and Cornwall police authority funding

	£ million
2009-10	231.8

Note:
This figure comprises the Home Office Police Grant and certain Specific Grants and Capital Provision, and also the Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates (both provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government).

(b) The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities on a per capita basis. The police funding formula used includes data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the needs of each police authority. Police grants allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Welsh Assembly Government also take into account the relative tax base of each police authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding his Department has allocated to police authorities in England for 2009-10 *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of population. [323673]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The information available can be found in the following table.

England police funding

	£ billion
2009-10	10.1

Note:
This figure comprises the Home Office Police Grant and certain Specific Grants and Capital Provision, and also the Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates (both provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government).

(b) The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities on a per capita basis. The police funding formula used includes data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the needs of each police authority. Police grants allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Welsh Assembly Government also take into account the relative tax base of each police authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding his Department allocated to Devon and Cornwall police for 1995-96 *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of population. [323674]

Mr. Hanson: The information is as follows:

(a) The information available can be found in the following table.

Devon and Cornwall police authority funding

	£ million
1995-96	126.6

Note:
This figure comprises the Home Office Police Grant and certain Specific Grants and Capital Provision, and also the Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates (both provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government).

(b) The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities on a per capita basis. The police funding formula used includes data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the needs of each police authority. Police grants allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Welsh Assembly Government also take into account the relative tax base of each police authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding his Department allocated to police authorities in England for 1995-96 *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of population. [323675]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The information available can be found in the following table.

England police funding

	£ billion
1995-96	5.5

Note:
This figure comprises the Home Office Police grant and certain specific grants and capital provision, and also the Revenue support grant and national non-domestic rates (both provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government).

(b) The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities on a per capita basis. The police funding formula used includes data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the needs of each police authority. Police grants allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Welsh Assembly Government also take into account the relative tax base of each police authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

Powers of Entry

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 554W, on powers of entry (1) which *(a)* new and *(b)* amended powers of entry have been created since October 2007; [322546]

(2) which *(a)* new and *(b)* amended powers of entry created since October 2007 were not subject to formal consultation with his Department. [322547]

Mr. Hanson: The statutory provisions that are now in force and have been subject to referral to my Department since October 2007 are in the following table.

I am aware of the following three statutory instruments that contain powers of entry were not referred to my department for consideration.

The Official Feed and Food Controls (England) Regulations 2009 (2009/3255) which revoke the 2007 Regulations and re-enacts the same powers of entry was not referred for consideration but is in accordance with the guidance. The powers of entry in the 2009 regulations are substantially unchanged from those in the original 2005 Regulations which were considered by my Department.

Also the Poultry Compartments (England) Order (2010/108) was not referred for consideration but is in accordance with the guidance.

The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Biological Agents) Regulations (2010/323) was not referred for consideration but is in accordance with the guidance. The powers of entry used are from the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 which were considered by my Department.

Any power of entry is granted by statute and therefore subject to parliamentary scrutiny of achieving the balance between sufficient powers to enforce and adequate protections for the individual.

The Home Department was consulted in respect of the power of entry contained in the draft Environmental Civil Sanctions (England) Order 2010 which is not yet in force.

Primary legislation

	Year	Statute	Department responsible	Number of powers
1	2006	Childcare Act 2006 (as amended by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009) Part 3A Inspection of Children Centres. s.98D: Inspection of Children Centres powers of entry without warrant. s.98F: Power of constable to assist in exercise of power of entry under a warrant.	DCSF	2
2	2008	Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Repeals and replaces powers of entry etc. under the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003) s.62-65: Powers of person authorised by Care Quality Commission to enter and inspect regulated premises.	DoH	1

Primary legislation

	Years	Statute	Department responsible	Number of powers
3	2009	Banking Act 2009—Enforcement of inter-bank payment system s.194: JP may issue warrant to authorised BoE inspector appointed under s.193 or constable to enter and search premises/part of premises where inter-bank payment system is managed or operated.	HMT	1
4	2009	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 Part eight, Chapter two Common enforcement powers s.246: Power of enforcement officer to board and inspect vessels and marine installations. s.247: Power of enforcement officer to enter and inspect premises for purposes of exercising functions. s.248: Power of enforcement officer to enter and inspect vehicles purposes of exercising functions. s.249/Schedule 17: Provides for issue of warrant to authorise enforcement officer to enter a dwelling. (Believed these provisions may replace one or more powers in marine/fishery protection/regulation type legislation)	DEFRA	4

Secondary Legislation

No	Year	SI no	Authority	Title	Department	No. of powers
1	2008	2347	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20082347_en_1	Sea Fishing (Recovery Measures) Order 2008 [2008/2347] Reg 13 Powers of British sea-fishery officers in relation to fishing boats Reg 14 Powers of British sea-fishery officers on land. Reg 15 Warrant to enter premises	DEFRA	3
2	2008	2795	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20082795_en_1	Cat and Dog Fur (Control of Import, Export and Placing on the Market) Regulations 2008 [2008/2795] Reg 3: Powers of investigation and enforcement	BIS	1
3	2009	1899	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20091899_en_1	Motor Vehicles (Replacement Catalytic Converters and Pollution Control Devices) Regulations 2009 [2009/1899] Reg 9(2) and Schedule Para. 5: Powers of search etc. (2): Power of authorised enforcement officer to enter premises without warrant—not dwellings (5): JP may issue warrant authorising authorised enforcement officer to enter premises	DfT	2
4	2009	261	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20090261_en_1	Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2009 [2009/261] (Revoke and remake with amendments the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2008/41) Reg 46: Powers of authorised persons to enforce regulations	DEFRA	1
5	2009	2048	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/pdf/uksi_20092048_en.pdf	Port Security Regulations 2009 [2009/2048] Reg. 25: Powers of a constable, port security officers and others to enter and search controlled buildings in designated ports	DfT	1
6	2009	463	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20090463_en_5	Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 [2009/463] Reg. 32(2): Entry and inspection of land and premises w/o warrant Reg. 32(3): Warrant to enter dwelling	DEFRA	2
7	2009	360	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi2009/wsi_20090360_en_1	European Fisheries Fund (Grants) (Wales) Regulations 2009 [2009/360] Reg 12: Powers of authorised officers	NAFW	1

Secondary Legislation:

No.	*Year*	*SI no.*	*Authority*	*Title*	*Department*	*No. of powers*
8	2009	842	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20090842_en_4#pt5-11g26	Organic Products Regulations [2009/842] (revoke and replace Organic Products Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1604) Reg 23: Powers of entry—authorised officers Reg 24: Powers after entry	DEFRA	1
9	2009	209	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20090209_en_8	Payment Services Regulations 2009 [2009/209] Reg 83: Entry, inspection without a warrant etc—FSA officer	HMT	1
10	2009	717	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20090717_en_7#pt6-pb1-11g34	Road Vehicles (Approval) Regulations 2009 [2009/717] Reg 34: Powers of entry—authorised person	DfT	1
11	2009	216	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20090216_en_1	Ozone-Depleting Substances (Qualifications) Regulations 2009 [2009/216] (revoke and replace, with amendments, Ozone Depleting Substances (Qualifications) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/1510) Reg 8: Powers of an authorised person	DEFRA	1
12	2009	2194	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20092194_en_1	Motor Vehicles (Refilling of Air Conditioning Systems by Service Providers) Regulations [2009/2194] Reg eight: Powers of search etc. (2): Power of authorised enforcement officer to enter premises without warrant—not dwellings (4): JP may issue warrant authorising authorised enforcement officer to enter premises	DfT	2
13	2009	1361	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20091361_en_1	Marketing of Fresh Horticultural Produce Regulations 2009 [2009/1361] Reg. 7(1) Power of authorised officer to enter without warrant to enforce Regs Reg 7(4): Entry on warrant	DEFRA	2
14	2009	1551	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi2009/wsi_20091551_en_1	Marketing of Fresh Horticultural Produce (Wales) Regulations 2009 [2009/1551] W151 Reg. 7(1) Power of authorised officer to enter without warrant to enforce Regs Reg 7(4): Entry on warrant	NAFW	2
15	2008	3252	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/pdf/uksi_20083252_en.pdf	Beef and Veal Labelling Regulations 2008 [2008/3252] Reg 6(1) Entry to inspect w/o warrant Reg 6(3) Entry on warrant Revokes Beef Labelling (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2000 [2000/3047]	DEFRA	2
16	2009	1850	European Communities Act 1972 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/pdf/uksi_20091850_en.pdf	Sea Fishing (Landing and Weighing of Herring, Mackerel and Horse Mackerel) Order 2009 [2009/1850] Reg 11 Powers of British sea-fishery officers in relation to fishing boats Reg 12 Powers of British sea-fishery officers on land Reg 13 Warrant to enter premises	DEFRA	3

Terrorism: Stop and Search

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate his Department has made of the proportion of people from an ethnic minority background who have been stopped and searched under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 since the Act came into force. [324128]

Mr. Hanson: Information on stop and search section 44 is collected centrally by the Home Office and provisional data are published quarterly in the official statistics publication 'Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation: arrest, outcomes and stops and searches, Great Britain.' The most recent publication (released February 2010) provides an update to 30 September 2009 and shows that of the 200,444 people stopped and searched under section 44 in the year ending 30 September 2009, 63,535 individuals self-identified as from a Black, Asian, Chinese/Other or of mixed ethnicity background. This equates to 32 per cent. of the total recorded for this period.

The data are published quarterly and the latest update can be found here:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0410.pdf

This data are considered provisional and full quality assured data are published by the Home Office in the annual statistical report 'Police Powers and Procedure,' further ethnicity breakdown will be available in the Ministry of Justice annual report on 'Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System.'

UK Border Agency: Complaints

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints about a citizenship or nationality application were made to the UK Border Agency in each of the last five years. [320886]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not hold central information to the level of detail asked for in this question. However, data are available relating to all types of complaints about the service that the agency provides. In 2008 there were 10,835 such complaints received by the agency and in 2009 there were 12,038.

UK Border Agency: Expenditure

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency and its predecessor spent on *(a)* advertising, *(b)* refreshments and *(c)* stationery in each year since 2005. [313499]

Mr. Woolas: The amount that the UK Border Agency and its predecessor spent on *(a)* advertising, *(b)* refreshments and *(c)* stationery in each year since 2005, is shown in the following table. Advertising is used by the agency when recruiting staff and to promote compliance with immigration and customs regulations.

Amount spent on (a) advertising, (b) refreshments and (c) stationery UK Border Agency 2005-08

£

	Advertising	*Refreshments*	*Stationery*
2005-06	0	298,320	4,139,851
2006-07	0	287,712	5,001,987
2007-08	16,049	246,391	4,428,372
2008-09	0	204,576	2,939,244

Notes:

1. Stationery: The figures for refreshments and stationary were drawn from cost code categories in the computerised general ledger to which invoices are posted. The costs will include a wide range of items form basic stationary to specialist forms.

2. Advertising: Recruitment advertising has not been included as it is not conducted centrally and hence spend could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Most customer/public facing advertising undertaken by the UK Border Agency during the period covered was undertaken on behalf of the Home Office or other Departments and is therefore accounted for within the advertising spend of those Departments, not the agency.

Young Offenders: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many community rehabilitation orders were *(a)* issued for each reason to and *(b)* breached by offenders aged (i) 12, (ii) 13, (iii) 14, (iv) 15, (v) 16, (vi) 17, (vii) 18 and (viii) 19 years old in each London borough in each year since 2002; [323889]

(2) how many *(a)* reparation, *(b)* action plan, *(c)* attendance centre, *(d)* curfew orders with conditions and *(e)* supervision orders were (i) issued for each reason to and (ii) breached by offenders aged (A) 12, (B) 13, (C) 14, (D) 15, (E) 16, (F) 17, (G) 18 and (H) 19 years old in each London borough in each year since 2002. [323890]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The available information is provided in the following table.

Data for 2009 will be available when Sentencing Statistics 2009 is published later this year.

The Court Proceedings database does not have data by boroughs. The information provided is for the London criminal justice area.

Due to data quality issues we are unable to provide information on breaches from the Courts Proceeding database. Work is currently under way to resolve this.

The Courts Proceeding database does not record information on reasons why these orders have been issued, other than the offence committed.

The figures referred to in the response relate to stand alone community sentences only. Requirements similar to those of the stand alone orders which have been given as part of the generic Community Order are not included. The Community Order, brought in by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 is available for offenders 18 and over and whose offence was committed from April 2005.

The community rehabilitation order and the standalone curfew order were replaced by the community order under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, from April 2005 for offenders over 18.

Community rehabilitation orders do not apply to offenders aged under 16.

Action plan order and reparation orders apply for offenders aged under 18.

Total number of persons given community sentences for 12 to 19-year-olds, and by London criminal justice area 2002-08

Types of community sentences	Age	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Community Rehabilitation Order	12	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	13	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	14	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	15	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	16	61	29	64	62	39	58	73
	17	237	183	173	207	144	185	216
	18	390	291	251	132	23	31	20
	19	392	293	223	142	10	0	0
Reparation Order	12	5	6	2	3	6	3	0
	13	32	9	8	9	19	20	14
	14	57	24	28	23	38	36	34
	15	106	65	48	57	76	90	73
	16	104	69	68	55	102	99	76
	17	106	56	56	53	72	68	60
	18	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	19	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Action Plan Order	12	16	12	9	7	10	9	14
	13	56	27	28	20	25	39	18
	14	130	71	71	64	79	76	62
	15	269	131	113	116	141	115	104
	16	192	129	134	141	145	132	116
	17	181	111	91	118	131	127	107
	18	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	19	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Attendance Centre	12	5	1	2	1	3	4	1
	13	13	8	11	6	6	6	7
	14	51	26	26	14	11	32	21
	15	89	45	50	52	42	68	47
	16	84	59	64	53	54	69	63
	17	77	60	55	49	67	82	66
	18	43	31	25	27	32	22	25
	19	27	20	19	15	22	15	13
Curfew Order	12	6	5	3	1	4	6	9
	13	20	13	18	15	11	29	41
	14	49	46	62	37	46	70	113
	15	76	91	113	113	83	158	193
	16	72	87	130	101	109	161	212
	17	69	63	94	88	76	119	225
	18	37	46	65	62	23	21	30

Total number of persons given community sentences for 12 to 19-year-olds, and by London criminal justice area 2002-08

Types of community sentences	Age	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	19	32	61	61	49	19	15	23

n/a = Not applicable

Notes:

Community rehabilitation orders do not apply to offenders under 16.

Reparation orders only apply to those aged 17 or under.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

This data has been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. This data is presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Sentences at the Crown court are categorised according to the police force that prosecuted the offence including those sentences that may be given at a court outside the prosecuting police force's area. The statistics are presented by criminal justice area. Police force areas correspond to criminal justice areas except for the Metropolitan and City of London Police, which are combined to form the London criminal justice area. Prosecutions brought by agencies other than the police are categorised according to the criminal justice area of the sentencing court. In the case of sentences at magistrates courts, a change was made to the categorisation by area as part of the rollout of the Libra case management system in magistrates courts during 2008. Sentences given at courts using the Libra system are categorised according to the criminal justice area of the court while sentences given at courts not yet using the Libra system are categorised in the same way as at the Crown court. By the end of 2008, all magistrates courts were using Libra. This change will have almost no impact on the categorisation by area; only around 0.01 per cent. of sentences at magistrates courts could have been affected in 2007 and 2008. Police forces do not prosecute minor offences (those that are sentenced at magistrates courts) in courts outside their areas.

The figures referred to in the response relate to stand alone community sentences only.

Requirements similar to those of the stand alone orders which have been given as part of the generic community order are not included. The Community Order, which was brought in by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 is available for offenders 18 and over and whose offence was committed from April 2005.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drug treatment and testing orders were *(a)* issued for each reason to and *(b)* breached by offenders aged (i) 12, (ii) 13, (iii) 14, (iv) 15, (v) 16, (vi) 17, (vii) 18 and (viii) 19 years old in each year since 2002. [323892]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The available information is provided in the following table.

Data for 2009 will be available when Sentencing Statistics 2009 is published later this year.

The Courts Proceeding database does not record information on reasons why these orders have been issued, other than the offence committed.

Due to data quality issues we are unable to provide information on breaches. Work is currently under way to resolve this.

The figures referred to in the response relate to stand alone community sentences only. Requirements similar to those of the stand alone orders which have been given as part of the generic community order are not included. The community order, which was brought in by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 is available for offenders 18 and over and whose offence was committed from April 2005.

The drug treatment and testing order was replaced by the drug rehabilitation requirement of the community order under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, from April 2005, for offenders aged over 18.

Total number of drug treatment and testing orders issued for offenders aged 12 to 19, 2002-08

Age	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
14	0	[1]	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	[1]	0
16	20	10	14	11	5	4	1
17	49	38	33	25	7	6	2
18	92	104	142	54	6	3	1

Total number of drug treatment and testing orders issued for offenders aged 12 to 19, 2002-08

Age	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
19	182	183	202	108	6	0	0

[1] Drug treatment and testing orders are not available for offenders aged under 16. These records are likely to be data errors, resulting from incorrect recording of age or disposal. *Notes:*

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. This data has been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. This data is presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
3. The figures referred to in the response relate to stand alone community sentences only. Requirements similar to those of the stand alone orders which have been given as part of the generic community order are not included. The Community Order, which was brought in by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 is available for offenders 18 and over and whose offence was committed from April 2005.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 563W, on young offenders, how many *(a)* volunteers, *(b)* (i) full-time and (ii) part-time practitioners, *(c)* sessional staff, *(d)* administration staff, *(e)* managers, *(f)* student and trainees and *(g)* others were working for youth offending teams in each London borough in each year since 2002. [323895]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Youth Justice Board collects figures on the number and type of staff working at each Youth Offending Team at the beginning of each financial year. The table shows information from 2004-05 as this was the first year in which this data was collected. The figures include vacant posts.

The table shows the figures on *(a)* volunteers, *(b)* (i) full-time and (ii) part-time practitioners, *(c)* sessional staff, (d) administration staff, *(e)* managers, *(f)* student and trainees and *(g)* others working at each Youth Offending Team at the beginning of each financial year.

	a	b (i)	b (ii)	c	d	e	f	g	Total
2008-09									
Barking and Dagenham	19	33	0	0	5	5	0	0	62
Barnet	19	18	10	0	1	7	1	0	56
Bexley	23	11	4	1	2	2	0	0	43
Brent	0	25	2	0	7	8	1	0	43
Bromley	24	26	3	8	7	5	0	0	73
Camden	0	26	13	0	8	7	0	0	54
Croydon	51	34	7	14	9	12	0	0	127
Ealing	0	23	6	3	6	10	0	0	48
Enfield	28	38	2	0	7	5	0	0	80
Greenwich	0	22	9	0	9	9	0	0	49
Hackney	0	64	5	0	14	9	0	0	92
Hammersmith and Fulham	50	34	2	4	8	6	2	0	106
Haringey	30	42	7	7	19	5	0	0	110
Harrow	40	17	8	12	7	4	1	0	89
Havering	37	19	6	10	5	3	0	0	80
Hillingdon	28	26	0	14	6	5	2	0	81
Hounslow	19	21	6	26	7	6	0	0	85
Islington	27	30	0	2	7	4	0	0	70
Kensington and Chelsea	24	23	4	1	3	5	0	0	60
Kingston-upon-Thames	0	9	2	0	2	4	0	0	17
Lambeth	24	47	0	0	8	10	0	0	89
Lewisham	42	34	9	1	8	5	0	0	99
Merton	40	15	5	7	4	4	0	0	75
Newham	0	56	1	0	9	12	0	0	78
Redbridge	0	34	6	0	9	9	1	0	59
Richmond-upon-Thames	36	6	9	1	2	3	0	0	57
Southwark	113	69	6	16	21	23	0	0	248
Sutton	43	15	5	2	3	4	0	0	72
Tower Hamlets and City of London	82	34	11	11	8	5	0	0	151
Waltham Forest	0	29	0	8	7	5	0	0	49
Wandsworth	26	21	7	17	6	6	1	0	84
Westminster	0	28	2	2	6	6	0	0	44
2007-08									
Barking and Dagenham	40	31	4	22	5	7	2	0	111
Barnet	25	12	7	2	2	5	0	0	53
Bexley	22	14	6	1	3	2	0	0	48
Brent	0	24	4	12	8	5	0	0	53
Bromley	0	27	0	2	7	3	0	0	39
Camden	0	32	6	2	8	5	0	0	53
Croydon	42	39	0	12	8	7	1	0	109
Ealing	33	29	2	10	8	4	0	0	86
Enfield	28	35	2	0	10	4	0	0	79
Greenwich	0	26	8	0	8	6	1	0	49
Hackney	35	43	8	2	14	13	0	0	115
Hammersmith and Fulham	50	34	4	4	8	6	2	0	108
Haringey	0	41	13	0	16	5	0	0	75
Harrow	55	15	8	13	7	3	1	0	102
Havering	31	19	5	12	4	3	0	0	74
Hillingdon	47	25	1	16	4	5	1	0	99
Hounslow	19	22	4	26	6	6	0	0	83
Islington	0	23	2	6	5	5	0	0	41
Kensington and Chelsea	25	22	4	0	3	5	1	0	60
Kingston-upon-Thames	11	10	5	0	1	2	0	0	29
Lambeth	54	43	2	9	12	9	0	0	129
Lewisham	43	38	3	0	4	5	1	0	94
Merton	50	15	3	5	3	4	2	0	82
Newham	14	47	1	3	14	11	2	0	92
Redbridge	0	30	6	0	9	10	2	0	57
Richmond-upon-Thames	99	7	8	4	1	4	0	0	123
Southwark	113	90	6	16	21	6	4	0	256
Sutton	35	13	7	0	2	4	1	0	62
Tower Hamlets and City of London	51	20	1	8	11	4	0	0	95
Waltham Forest	0	29	3	2	9	4	0	0	47

	a	b (i)	b (ii)	c	d	e	f	g	Total
Wandsworth	49	24	5	30	5	5	1	0	119
Westminster	15	40	0	0	6	2	2	0	65
2006-07									
Barking and Dagenham	16	29	1	22	6	6	1	0	81
Barnet	32	17	4	12	4	3	2	0	74
Bexley	22	15	4	2	3	2	0	0	48
Brent	35	24	2	14	10	7	0	0	92
Bromley	35	16	6	0	2	2	0	0	61
Camden	0	29	9	1	8	5	2	0	54
Croydon	48	36	1	19	8	7	0	0	119
Ealing	34	23	4	12	6	4	1	0	84
Enfield	23	32	2	0	10	3	0	0	70
Greenwich	0	21	6	5	7	6	0	0	45
Hackney	33	35	4	2	11	4	1	0	90
Hammersmith and Fulham	34	27	4	4	8	8	2	0	87
Haringey	28	38	12	36	11	6	4	0	135
Harrow	52	11	4	10	6	4	2	0	89
Havering	39	18	7	20	5	3	0	0	92
Hillingdon	47	25	0	11	5	5	1	0	94
Hounslow	22	19	1	24	6	5	2	0	79
Islington	0	23	2	6	5	5	0	0	41
Kensington and Chelsea	17	20	2	6	5	3	1	0	54
Kingston-upon-Thames	48	7	4	0	0	2	1	0	62
Lambeth	55	46	1	0	14	3	0	0	119
Lewisham	69	38	2	0	6	4	2	0	121
Merton	35	13	2	0	3	3	2	0	58
Newham	48	59	0	16	22	17	4	0	166
Redbridge	0	28	7	0	10	8	1	0	54
Richmond-upon-Thames	66	7	10	4	2	2	1	0	92
Southwark	113	74	6	16	21	6	5	0	241
Sutton	118	15	3	0	2	4	0	0	142
Tower Hamlets and City of London	37	24	1	13	9	4	2	0	90
Waltham Forest	31	27	2	0	7	4	0	0	71
Wandsworth	57	25	5	21	4	4	2	0	118
Westminster	15	40	0	0	6	2	2	0	65
2005-06									
Barking and Dagenham	12	26	6	16	7	7	1	0	75
Barnet	2	1	16	3	4	2	13	0	41
Bexley	13	15	3	2	3	2	1	0	39
Brent	22	24	0	15	9	5	1	0	76
Bromley	22	18	4	9	2	2	0	0	57
Camden	0	23	6	3	8	5	4	0	49
Croydon	38	31	2	18	8	7	0	0	104
Ealing	0	23	12	7	6	3	0	0	51
Enfield	0	17	2	11	11	3	0	0	44
Greenwich	0	21	4	1	7	4	0	0	37
Hackney	2	27	3	1	8	6	0	0	47
Hammersmith and Fulham	23	28	2	4	7	5	2	0	71
Haringey	27	30	7	77	12	4	1	0	158
Harrow	40	10	6	12	7	4	0	0	79
Havering	18	17	2	8	4	2	1	0	52
Hillingdon	24	21	1	12	3	3	0	0	64
Hounslow	32	19	1	16	6	5	0	0	79
Islington	25	21	1	4	5	3	0	0	59
Kensington and Chelsea	26	20	2	2	3	3	0	0	56
Kingston-upon-Thames	10	7	4	3	0	2	0	0	26
Lambeth	0	38	1	0	9	4	0	0	52
Lewisham	71	40	2	0	5	4	2	0	124
Merton	36	10	2	0	2	5	2	0	57
Newham	0	61	0	5	20	20	3	0	109
Redbridge	0	25	5	1	9	9	0	0	49
Richmond-upon-Thames	113	10	10	11	3	4	1	0	152
Southwark	106	64	6	20	20	6	4	0	226
Sutton	104	12	2	0	3	4	0	0	125

	a	*b (i)*	*b (ii)*	*c*	*d*	*e*	*f*	*g*	*Total*
Tower Hamlets and City of London	22	22	0	12	7	5	3	0	71
Waltham Forest	31	28	0	0	7	3	0	0	69
Wandsworth	58	24	4	10	3	4	0	0	103
Westminster	0	34	2	0	6	2	1	0	45
2004-05									
Barking and Dagenham	0	18	0	8	4	3	0	0	33
Barnet	1	2	3	4	12	2	2	0	26
Bexley	5	15	3	4	2	2	0	0	31
Brent	0	17	5	0	7	6	0	0	35
Bromley	28	14	2	9	5	2	0	0	60
Camden	16	21	9	0	5	4	2	0	57
Croydon	123	27	6	0	7	4	0	0	167
Ealing	0	23	12	7	6	3	0	0	51
Enfield	45	27	2	0	7	4	0	0	85
Greenwich	0	21	4	2	5	5	1	0	38
Hackney	2	23	3	8	6	4	2	0	48
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	33	11	5	0	4	2	0	55
Haringey	36	42	6	13	12	5	3	0	117
Harrow	55	11	6	15	5	5	1	0	98
Havering	28	20	0	10	4	2	1	0	65
Hillingdon	18	17	3	11	3	3	0	0	55
Hounslow	42	15	4	15	4	5	0	0	85
Islington	62	22	2	4	6	5	6	0	107
Kensington and Chelsea	16	17	1	1	4	4	0	0	43
Kingston-upon-Thames	0	8	1	0	2	2	0	0	13
Lambeth	49	36	3	35	11	13	2	0	149
Lewisham	0	24	4	0	16	4	3	0	51
Merton	44	16	1	0	3	2	0	0	66
Newham	0	48	1	0	12	6	7	0	74
Redbridge	0	30	0	0	8	5	1	0	44
Richmond-upon-Thames	67	10	9	5	2	2	0	0	95
Southwark	0	61	4	0	17	4	5	0	91
Sutton	0	10	5	0	2	3	0	0	20
Tower Hamlets and City of London	25	21	0	11	7	5	1	0	70
Waltham Forest	0	14	1	3	6	5	0	0	29
Wandsworth	47	16	5	4	3	4	0	0	79
Westminster	0	30	1	0	5	2	0	0	38

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations offer the Social Homebuy scheme; and what the aggregate size of their housing stock is. [319307]

Mr. Ian Austin: During 2009-10 there are 10 local authorities and 48 registered social landlords offering social homebuy. The total housing stock (as at April 2009) owned by these local authorities was 198,000 and the total stock owned by these RSLs (as at 31 March 2009) was 721,000. RSL stock includes that owned by subsidiaries where the parent RSL is offering social homebuy.

Sources:

1. Stock figures are taken from local authority returns to the Business Plan Statistical Appendix for 2008-09:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/localauthorityhousing/dataforms/hssa0809/bpsadata200809/

2. Regulatory and Statistical Returns to the Tenant Services Authority for 2009:

https://www.rsrsurvey.co.uk//

Allotments

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many allotment disposals have been approved by the Government Office responsible for allotment disposals in each local authority area since 1997. [323037]

Barbara Follett: A table providing data on the number of granted applications requesting consent to dispose of statutory allotments, from 1 January 2000 until 31December 2009 broken down by local authority area has been placed in the Library of the House. We do not hold complete data for years prior to 2000.

Arc Manche

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 307W, on Arc Manche, what bids have been made for funding for the Arc Manche Network and Assembly under the Interreg IV round. [324005]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Arc Manche Network and Assembly have made no specific bids for funding under the Interreg IV programmes.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 307W, on Arc Manche, if he will place in the Library a copy of each document associated with the bid and award of the £1.1 million grant to support the Arc Manche Network and Regional Assembly. [324006]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department will place a copy of the Espace Manche Development Initiative bid documentation in the Library. The details of the award and grant offer letter are commercially in confident documents and are not available to us. These are held by the French Managing Authority based in Lille and Haute Normandie as Lead Partner for the Project.

Audit Commission: Official Hospitality

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 561W, on the Audit Commission: procurement, who attended the Audit Commission's function held at the Reform Club. [324011]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 25 March 2010:

The event held at the Reform Club on 21 April 2008 was the Commission's 25tn anniversary event.

Invitations were sent to key stakeholders and people who had played a significant part in the Commission's history. No list of those who actually attended the event exists.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Audit Commission: Training

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 561W, on the Audit Commission: procurement, what the purpose was of the extra driver tuition from the AA Driving School procured by the Audit Commission; and what the jobs were of those who received the training. [324012]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 25 March 2010:

The payments to the AA driving school relate to seven members of staff who attended one day advanced driver training courses. Two of the individuals are auditors, two are IT specialists and three are performance specialists.

All seven members of staff drive a high number of business miles each year and all had been involved in car accidents whilst driving on Commission business. The purpose of the driving courses is to analyse and improve the skills of high risk drivers and attendance contributes to reducing insurance costs.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Council Housing: Oldham

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has guaranteed to write off the whole of Oldham's outstanding housing debt in the event of the stock transfer ballot being won; when a decision on this matter was taken; and what form that decision took. [324267]

Mr. Ian Austin: Government are committed to clearing the attributable housing debt of Oldham council if its tenants vote in favour of transfer. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), which has responsibility for the delivery of the housing transfer programme, completed its assessment of Oldham's transfer application in October 2009.

The HCA was satisfied that the transfer proposals, including the indicative Overhanging debt total, met the necessary criteria as set out in guidance. Accordingly, the HCA recommended that Oldham be given a place on the transfer programme. In his written ministerial statement of December 2009, the Housing Minister agreed a place on the programme for Oldham, enabling the council to proceed to Stage One of the tenant consultation process.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authority area had the lowest Band D outturn bill, including all precepts, in each year since 1997-98. [323984]

Barbara Follett: Details of the average Band D council tax in each local authority area in England in each year since 1997-98 are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what cap he plans to put in place in respect of council tax increases in 2010-11. [324030]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I have made today.

Departmental Termination of Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on *(a)* flexible and *(b)* compulsory early severance for staff at each grade at his Department's headquarters in (i) each financial year since 2004-05 and (ii) 2009-10; and in respect of how many staff at each grade severance arrangements of each type were made in each year. [323533]

Barbara Follett: The following table shows the amount the Department spent on compulsory early severance in the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09.

	2006-07	2007-08	£ 2008-09
AA	—	51,848	409,371
AO	271,875	399,341	62,760
EO	996,821	1,142,191	86,915
HEO	1,822,327	1,411,960	138,928
SEO	670,969	722,032	13,851
Grade 7	757,784	307,937	—
Grade 6	129,424	—	—
SCS	136,557	—	183,054
Total	4,785,757	4,035,309	894,879

The following table shows the number of staff who left the Department on compulsory early severance in the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09.

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
AA	—	1	8
AO	7	8	1
EO	21	18	1
HEO	25	17	2
SEO	6	6	1
Grade 7	6	4	—
Grade 6	2	—	—
SCS	1	—	1
Total	68	54	14

There were no staff who left the Department on flexible early severance in the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Communities and Local Government came into existence on 5 May 2006 and information about compulsory or flexible early severance before to this date can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We are unable to provide details for the current financial year 2009-10 as the figures have not yet been produced in their final form.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on *(a)* flexible and *(b)* compulsory early retirement for staff at each grade at his Department's headquarters in (i) each financial year since 2004-05 and (ii) 2009-10; and how many staff at each grade took each type of retirement in each year. [323534]

Barbara Follett: The following table shows the amount the Department spent on compulsory early retirement in the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09.

	2006-07	2007-08	£ 2008-09
AA	—	8,990	131,433
AO	149,733	116,859	—
EO	215,454	77,655	20,571
HEO	635,800	166,882	45,766
SEO	431,587	110,952	—
Grade 7	482,031	254,341	120,677
Grade 6	197,165	25,661	—
SCS	1,154,201	994,597	614,940
Total	3,265,971	1,755,937	933,387

The following table shows the number of staff who left the Department on compulsory early retirement in the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
AA	—	1	3
AO	10	10	—
EO	12	6	2
HEO	21	9	2
SEO	17	7	—
Grade 7	17	9	3
Grade 6	5	1	—
SCS	6	—	—
Total	88	43	10

The following table shows the amount the Department spent on flexible early retirement and the number of staff who left under these terms in the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09.

	2006-07	2007-08	£ 2008-09
AA	—	—	16,336
Total	—	—	16,336
Number of staff	—	—	1
Total	—	—	1

The Department for Communities and Local Government came into existence on 5 May 2006 and information about compulsory or flexible early retirements prior to this date can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We are unable to provide details for the current financial year 2009-10 as the year end figures have not yet been completed.

Disadvantage: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value was of each indicator in the *(a)* income, *(b)* employment, *(c)* health, *(d)* education, *(e)* barriers to housing and services, *(f)* crime and *(g)* living environment domain of the indices of deprivation for each London borough in each year since 2000. [323775]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The indices of deprivation 2007 and 2004 (ID 2007 and ID 2004) were constructed at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level. LSOAs are consistent in size and over time, and allow identification of small pockets of deprivation. This also overcomes difficulties in producing statistics for electoral wards associated with frequent boundary changes. There are 32,482 LSOAs in England.

Domains within the Indices of Deprivation are independent dimensions of multiple deprivation, each with their own impact on multiple deprivation relative to its importance. In the ID2004 and ID2007 the overall IMD was constructed by combining the individual domain indices using explicit weights, driven by theoretical considerations and research into the issue of weighting carried out by the University of St. Andrews (Dibben et al., 2007[1]). The weightings are as follows:

	Domain weight (percentage)
Income Deprivation	22.5
Employment Deprivation	22.5
Health Deprivation and Disability	13.5
Education, Skills and Training Deprivation	13.5
Barriers to Housing and Services	9.3
Crime	9.3
Living Environment Deprivation	9.3

Six summary measures of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007 and 2004 have been produced at both local authority district and unitary authority levels. The summary measures at district level focus on different aspects of multiple deprivation in the area. The six measures are Average Score, Average Rank, Extent, Local Concentration, Income Scale, and Employment Scale.

[1] Dibben, C, Atherton, I., Cox, M., Watson, V., Ryan, M. and Sutton, M. (2007) Investigating the Impact of Changing the Weights that Underpin the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004, London: Communities and Local Government

ID2007 and the local authority summaries can be found here:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivation07/

ID2004 and the local authority summaries can be found here:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/general-content/communities/indicesofdeprivation/216309/

Statistics for the indices of deprivation 2000 (ID 2000) were produced for each of the 8,414 wards in England and then summarised by district. They are available to download here:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/general-content/communities/indicesofdeprivation/indicesofdeprivation/

Empty Property: Council Tax

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the council tax discount in respect of empty homes in each year since 2004. [321848]

Barbara Follett: No estimate is available.

European Regional Development Fund

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 366W, on the European Regional Development Fund, if he will place in the Library a copy of each audit report on an English European Regional Development Fund programme which has been produced in the last 24 months. [323189]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The European Court of Auditors and European Commission have produced three audit reports on 2000-06 English ERDF programmes in the last 24 months. However, these reports contain classified financial information about individual organisations and it would be inappropriate for me to place copies of the reports in the Library.

European Regional Development Fund

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much had been paid in fines consequent on irregularities relating to the European Regional Development Fund programme since 1997 at the latest date for which figures are available; and what his most recent estimate is of the contingent liabilities in respect of such irregularities. [323985]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Commission does not impose fines on member states in relation to irregularities found during the course of applying management controls to the administration of European Regional Development Funds (ERDF). It does apply Financial Corrections where, in its view, those management controls have not met the high standard they require. These are estimated to remove that element of funds not subject to audit that might have been found to be irregular.

The only Financial Correction applied to the 2000-2006 ERDF programmes was imposed on the NW Objective 2 and URBAN programmes for failures in management control (Article 4 of regulation (EC) 438/2001). This amounted to €30,886,153. The total value of the programmes is €860,000,000.

The latest estimate of contingent liabilities arising from possible Financial Corrections and other disallowances was published in the recent Spring Supplementary Estimates as £113,450,000. My Department will be reviewing this figure in the context of the 2009-2010 resource accounts to be published in June.

Government Office for London: Expenditure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the programme expenditure of the Government Office for London was in each year since 1996-97. [324018]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is set out in the following table:

£ million

	Allocations/ delegations issued to GOL	*European Programmes*	*Grants to GLA*	*Total*
1998-99	....	....	....	1,440
1999-00	....	....	....	2,202
2000-01	....	....	....	1,605
2001-02	....	....	....	2,094
2002-03	....	....	....	2,530
2003-04	....	....	....	2,724
2004-05	....	....	....	3,323
2005-06	211	105	2,218	2,534
2006-07	193	92	2,428	2,713

£ million

	Allocations/ delegations issued to GOL	European Programmes	Grants to GLA	Total
2007-08	108	66	2,559	2,732
2008-09	29	72	48	148
2009-10	20	0	48	68

Notes:
1. We do not hold figures for 1996-1997 and 1997-1998 and do not have a breakdown of expenditure prior to 2005-06.
2. Since 2008-09, funding for the Greater London Authority for TfL and the LDA, which GOL had administered since 2000, is now directly administered by DFT and BIS.
3. From 2009-10 responsibility for European Programmes was transferred to the Greater London Authority.
4. The figures for 2009-10 are allocations rather than expenditure.
5. All figures are rounded.

Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the *(a)* running cost and *(b)* aggregate programme expenditure was of the Government Office for each region in 2009-10; [323101]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne of 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 611W, on Government Offices for the Regions: finance, what the aggregate monetary value was of programme budgets in the most recent year for which figures are available. [323145]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is as follows:

£

	2009-10	
Regional Government Office	*Projected running (admin) costs expenditure*	*Projected Aggregate programme expenditure*
GO North East	8,673,300	8,966,485
GO North West	11,051,400	37,135,586
GO Yorkshire and Humber	9,049,700	24,492,668
GO West Midlands	11,373,700	12,353,792
GO East Midlands	7,856,600	7,856,265
GO East	8,899,400	13,760,080
GO South East	10,139,500	9,935,892
GO South West	9,625,000	6,403,683
GO London	11,051,100	68,242,781

Programme figures relate solely to programmes which are administered by the GOs on behalf of the 12 sponsoring Departments.

Projected aggregate programme expenditure for 2009-10 excludes European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) expenditure. The details of the ERDF 2000-06 expenditure defrayed in 2009-10 will not be available until September 2010, at the earliest, after the audits are completed by the Director General for Regional Policy-European Commission. ERDF expenditure for 2007-13 is administered by the Regional Development Agency's (RDAs).

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the administration costs of the Government Offices for the Regions were in each year since 1996-97. [324019]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

From 2001-02 the Government Office Network changed the way it accounted for corporate service administration budgets centralising the Information Communication Technology budgets rather than them being managed by the individual Government Offices. Further centralisation of budgets took place for Learning and Development in 2007-08 and Estates from 2008-09.

Government Office Administrative Running Costs: GO outturn expenditure from 1996-97 to 200809 and projected outturn expenditure from 2009-10

Government Office	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
North East	8,687.15	8,616.75	8,618.84	8,312.05	8,197.33	9,002.29	9,954.46
North West	9,839.09	9,442.59	13,690.13	13,048.58	13,651.03	15,344.87	15,523.52
Merseyside	4,349.95	4,199.53	12.24	—	—	—	—
Yorks and Humber	8,765.04	8,475.01	8,683.92	8,888.68	9,357.48	10,036.85	10,943.77
West Midlands	10,040.37	9,757.79	9,474.35	9,330.15	9,960.76	10,295.51	10,662.85
East Midlands	6,616.67	6,436.24	6,754.39	6,951.28	7,335.77	8,244.80	8,713.24
East	6,168.97	6,270.62	6,269.43	7,005.47	7,542.48	8,631.95	9,355.85
South West	7,140.74	6,825.73	6,985.03	7,796.87	8,711.38	10,666.90	11,860.77
South East	8,406.18	8,544.99	8,561.40	8,658.61	9,477.26	10,326.44	10,874.74
London	14,106.47	13,458.82	13,238.12	13,715.79	13,860.98	13,161.20	14,038.84
Corporate Services	1,696.34	4,355.96	3,095.29	3,702.74	4,732.81	9,507.95	7,531.60
Total	85,816.97	86,384.03	85,383.14	87,410.22	92,827.28	105,218.76	109,459.64

Government Office	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Projected 2009-10
North East	12,167.24	13,887.09	13,138.16	12,730.25	11,826.45	10,178.90	8,673.30
North West	16,808.94	17,777.86	17,745.45	16,933.67	16,095.53	12,184.09	11,051.40
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yorks and Humber	12,480.23	13,453.18	13,494.30	10,676.64	13,447.21	8,922.60	9,049.70
West Midlands	13,381.47	15,286.08	14,497.15	14,925.87	15,000.75	10,834.07	11,373.70
East Midlands	11,153.67	11,937.13	12,530.66	11,490.17	10,857.39	8,873.74	7,856.60
East	12,841.51	15,075.61	13,296.12	12,211.64	11,398.50	9,109.56	8,899.40
South West	13,960.23	14,724.92	14,823.08	13,677.13	13,763.68	10,461.02	9,625.00
South East	14,099.03	14,372.51	14,624.51	14,570.49	13,105.84	10,559.56	10,139.50
London	16,654.91	18,870.09	18,483.70	17,595.20	16,198.99	11,811.52	11,051.10
Corporate services	14,988.76	13,389.19	14,693.52	16,348.41	16,743.70	39,217.91	37,230.04
Total	138,535.98	148,773.66	147,326.65	141,159.47	138,438.04	132,152.97	124,949.74

GO-North West and GO-Merseyside merged during 1998-1999.
From 2001-02 the Government Office Network changed the way it accounted for corporate service administration budgets centralising the Information Communication Technology budgets rather than them being managed by the individual Government Offices. Further centralisation of budgets took place for Learning and Development in 2007-08 and Estates from 2008-09.

Joint Improvement Partnerships

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* function of (i) Joint Improvement and (ii) Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships is; and in which regions Joint Improvement Partnerships have been established. [323163]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy, published in December 2007, set out the agreement with the sector that RIEPs would:

- commit to supporting councils and partnerships in difficulty, ensuring resources are devoted to prevention and support;
- focus resources on supporting innovation and efficiency as a means of delivering excellent LAAs;
- establish strong governance arrangements that ensure strong member leadership of and engagement in the RIEP and ownership of the strategy by all members in the region;
- base their regional improvement and efficiency strategy on a robust analysis of need across the region, using both data and consultation to develop the strategy; and
- report annually to councils and partnerships in the region and the LGA-Government-Chief Executives' Task Group governance structure, accounting for the distribution and use of funding and progress against priorities, and providing reassurance that these minimum standards are being met.

Supported by RIEPs and the Department of Health, the Joint Improvement Partnerships (JIPs) seek to improve adult health and social care provision through partnership working between local authorities, NHS, the voluntary and community sector, other partner organisations, and people who use services and carers. There is a JIP in every English region, and they help to share information, learning and skills; support collaborative project work; and, contribute towards workforce development in the adult social care sector.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding under the Local Authorities Business Growth Incentive scheme has been allocated to each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in each year from 2005-06; and how much such funding he expects to be allocated under the scheme in 2010-11. [323818]

Barbara Follett: For the period 2005-06 to 2007-08, £1 billion was allocated to LABGI: £935 million to England and £65 million to Wales. The National Assembly for Wales has been responsible for distribution of its LABGI allocation. The Government distributed LABGI grant in England totalling £50 million in 2009-10; and has recently indicated that it also intends to distribute the same total amount in England in 2010-11.

(a) In England, the Government have given the following total regional LABGI grants each year:

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	£ 2009-10
East England	9,651,270	31,897,413	10,245,115	40,608,231	5,914,554
East Midlands	11,217,878	34,318,221	10,238,250	34,839,244	4,228,280
London	17,260,775	46,877,642	12,878,283	68,019,603	10,734,393
North East	8,282,619	25,326,820	5,165,671	34,893,787	2,116,631
North West	18,214,154	55,790,645	10,535,099	50,954,372	5,976,589
South East	14,054,485	32,183,210	14,274,492	41,615,272	8,400,294
South West	9,690,211	24,213,062	6,592,029	40,853,396	4,957,132
West Midlands	11,747,907	36,982,240	10,370,939	42,606,972	4,075,071
Yorkshire and the Humber	15,336,497	40,414,553	11,852,639	41,803,297	3,597,065

(b) The Government have published details of the final allocations to local authorities in England in Grant Determinations, which can be viewed on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/labgi/

and

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/labgi/labgischeme2/

The main Grant Determinations can be viewed at:

05/06 Grant Determination (No 1) 2006 [No 31/233] (7 February 2006)

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/dtmn0506.pdf

05/06 Grant Determination (No 2) 2006 [No 31/249] (27 February 2006)

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/dtmn0506v2.pdf

05/06 Grant Determination (No 3) 2006 [No 31/491] (19 July 2006)

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/dtmn0506v3.pdf

06/07 Grant Determination 2007 [No 31/554] (27 February 2007)

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/dtmn0607.pdf

06/07 Grant Determination (no 2) 2007 [No 31/892] (6 September 2007)

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/dtmncode20.pdf

07/08 Grant Determination (No 2) 2008 [31/1238] (26 June 2008)

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/seconddtmn0708.pdf

Grant Determination 2009 [No 31/1287] (23 February 2009)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/LABusGrowIS

Grant Determination 2009 (no 2) (no 31/1640) (25 September 2009)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/local government/labgidetermination20092

Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1239W, on local government, if he will issue guidance to local authority monitoring officers on visits by hon. Members to local authority-owned premises and facilities *(a)* outside and *(b)* inside election purdah periods. [324000]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State has no plans to issue guidance to local authority monitoring officers on visits by hon. Members to premises and facilities owned by local authorities. Local authority members are required by their council's statutory Code of Conduct to ensure their council's resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes).

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the public sector duty regarding socio-economic inequalities in clause 1 of the Equality Bill will apply to his Department when it is allocating local government grants. [319033]

Michael Jabez Foster: I have been asked to reply.

The Government Equalities Office leads on the Equality Bill.

The duty will apply to decisions of a strategic nature. As we made clear in our guide to the duty, we would expect central government departments to have regard to the duty, alongside other considerations, when making strategic funding decisions.

Local Government: Complaints

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints have been *(a)* submitted to and *(b)* upheld by in whole or in part the Local Government Ombudsman in each year since 1996. [323304]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the number of complaints submitted each year and the number of complaints in each year on which either a local settlement was reached or the Ombudsman issued a report finding maladministration.

	Complaints submitted	*Complaint settled locally or reported on by Ombudsman*
1996-97	15,322	2,752
1997-98	14,969	2,694
1998-99	15,869	2,624
1999-2000	17,555	3,060
2000-01	19,179	3,945
2001-02	18,309	4,331
2002-03	17,610	3,857
2003-04	18,982	3,363
2004-05	18,698	3,042
2005-06	18,626	2,962
2006-07	18,320	3,088
2007-08	17,628	3,057
2008-09	21,012	2,885

Local Government: Equality

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of Clause 1 of the Equality Bill on the allocation of local funding *(a)* by central government to local government and *(b)* by local authorities to individual wards and neighbourhoods. [319626]

Michael Jabez Foster: I have been asked to reply.

The Government Equalities Office leads on the Equality Bill.

The public sector duty regarding socio-economic inequalities will apply to decisions of a strategic nature. As we made clear in our guide to the duty, we would expect central government departments to have regard to the duty, alongside other considerations, when making strategic funding decisions.

The guide also makes clear that we would expect local authorities to have regard to the duty when drawing up their key plans and strategies. However, whether the duty is relevant to any particular local funding decision will be for the local authority to decide.

Local Government: Per Capita Costs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1292-3W, on local government: per capita costs, what the average central Government grant per capita was to *(a)* district councils, *(b)* unitary councils, *(c)* county councils, *(d)* metropolitan councils, *(e)* London boroughs, *(f)* police authorities and *(g)* fire authorities in each year since 1997-98 in real terms in 2009 prices. [324007]

Barbara Follett: The average central Government grant per capita for the classes of authority specified since 1997-98 in real terms at 2008-09 prices is shown in the following table.

£ per head

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
District councils	85	79	79	80	82	82	89	83	86	96	96	98
Unitary councils	786	806	843	898	936	962	1,081	1,084	1,132	1,144	1,161	1,201
County councils	651	607	632	677	709	720	786	808	839	844	863	889
Metropolitan councils	877	921	969	1,029	1,082	1,107	1,247	1,289	1,344	1,358	1,375	1,414
London boroughs	1,043	1,072	1,113	1,169	1,214	1,230	1,346	1,371	1,419	1,430	1,452	1,473
Police authorities[1]	152	153	153	134	139	138	143	144	147	143	145	145
Fire authorities[2,3]	15	16	16	11	11	11	11	26	26	23	23	23

[1] From 2000-01 onwards Metropolitan Police Authority data are collected within Greater London Authority. Hence separate data are not available.
[2] From 2000-01 onwards London Fire and Civil Defence Authority data are collected within Greater London Authority. Hence separate data are not available.
[3] From 2004-05 onwards Combined Fire Authorities (CFA) became precepting authorities.

Notes:
1. The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of Formula Grant (Revenue Support Grant, Redistributed Non-Domestic Rates and Police Grant), Greater London Authority (GLA) grant and specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), i.e. Revenue Grants paid for council's core services. In past years, where applicable the SSA reduction grant and Central Support Protection Grants have also been included. From 2008-09 it also includes Area Based Grant (ABG).
2. Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.
3. Per capita figures are calculated using Office for National Statistics' (ONS) Mid-Year Population estimates from 1997 to 2008.
4. The real terms figures are calculated using the latest HM Treasury GDP deflators.
5. From 2000-01 onwards Metropolitan Police Authority and London Fire and Civil Defence Authority data are collected within Greater London Authority returns. Hence separate data are not available.
6. From 2004-05 Combined Fire Authorities (CFA) became precepting authorities. Prior to this CFAs levied on county councils' budget requirements.
7. Comparison across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

Local Government: Public Consultation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities offer community kitties to local residents. [323988]

Barbara Follett: We do not require local authorities to report on this, but according to the Participatory Budgeting Unit, who collate information on our behalf, 63 top tier local area agreement (LAA) areas use some form of participatory budgeting. For details of those who are carrying out participatory budgeting, I refer the hon. Member to an answer I gave her on 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 890-92W.

Local Government: Devon and Norfolk

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his plans are for the implementation of *(a)* the draft Exeter and Devon (Structural Changes) Order 2010 and *(b)* the draft Norwich and Norfolk (Structural Changes) Order 2010. [323092]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Following the approval by this House and the other place of the draft orders implementing unitary councils for Exeter and Norwich, I informed the House yesterday, *Official Report*, columns 38-41WS, that the Government had concluded it was right to proceed in making those orders, and that we intended to do so as soon as practicable. The orders were subsequently made yesterday and have come into force today.

Local Government: Translation Services

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on translation services by local authorities in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [324420]

Barbara Follett: The information is not collected centrally.

Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's publication of February 2010, Number of hereditaments benefiting from Small Business Rate Relief and the number of empty hereditaments, what his latest estimate is of the number and proportion of eligible small firms who do not claim small business rate relief. [323186]

Barbara Follett: Local authorities estimated that 462,000 hereditaments were benefiting from Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) on December 2008. By applying that figure to the eligibility estimates made for the 2005 rating list it is estimated that around 80 per cent. of

eligible hereditaments were claiming SBRR in 2008-09 - see table 1. This estimate suggests that around 20 per cent. or 113,000 of eligible hereditaments are not claiming SBRR. However, relief granted to small businesses has been increasing since SBRR was introduced-from £202 million in 2005-06 to £298 million in 2008-09. This represents a real terms increase of 34 per cent. Furthermore in 2008-09, 92 per cent. of the total relief that would be paid if all those estimated to be eligible were to claim, was actually being paid - see table 2.

Table 1: Take-up of SBRR - numbers claiming

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Number of hereditaments actually claiming SBRR (thousand)	396	433	462
Number of hereditaments estimated to be occupied by eligible small businesses (thousand)	575	575	575
Percentage of estimated eligible actually claiming	69	75	80

Table 2: Take-up of SBRR 2005-06 to 2008-09 - relief

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Total relief that would be paid out if all properties estimated to be occupied by eligible small businesses were to claim[1] (£ million)	295	300	315	325
Relief actually claimed: (£ million)	202	237	259	£98
Percentage take-up[2] (%)	69	78	83	92

[1] For details of how this estimate was made please see the paper "Small business rate relief-improving evidence on eligibility and take-up: Methodology"

[2] Percentage of total relief, which would be paid if all eligible small businesses claimed it, that was actually paid

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hereditaments are *(a)* above the rateable value threshold for small business rate relief, *(b)* below the rateable value for small business rate relief but not occupied by eligible small businesses, *(c)* below the rateable value threshold for small business rate relief and occupied by an eligible small business claiming the relief and *(d)* below the rateable value threshold for small business rate relief and occupied by a eligible small business not claiming relief in each region; what estimate he has made of the monetary value of small business rate relief available to each eligible firm claiming the relief in each region; and how much has been claimed in small business rate relief by businesses in each region in 2009-10 to date. [323817]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows:

(a) The number of hereditaments above the rateable value threshold for Small Business Rate Relief by region on the 2005 Rating List are shown in the following table. These numbers are consistent with the statistical release titled "Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists—England and Wales" published on 18 December 2009.

Government office region	*Number of hereditaments above the rateable value threshold[1] for SBRR on 2005 Rating List*
North East	18,000
North West	59,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	41,000
East Midlands	35,000
West Midlands	47,000
East of England	51,000
London	81,000
South East	79,000
South West	42,000
Total	453,000

[1] Hereditaments with a rateable value over £15,000 or £21,500 in London

(b), *(c)* and *(d)* The report "Small Business Rate Relief—improving evidence on eligibility and take-up was published on 9 December 2009 and it estimates that of the approximately 1.2 million non-domestic properties in England which fall below the current rateable value (RV) thresholds for SBRR, around 575,000 are occupied by eligible small businesses. This report has been validated by an independent peer review and is available at

http://www.communities.gov.uk

This methodology can only be applied nationally for England as a whole. Therefore it is not possible to calculate an estimate of eligibility of small business rate relief by region.

No estimate has been made of the monetary value of small business rate relief in each eligible firm in each region claiming the relief.

The amount of small business rate relief is collected from local authorities on a financial year basis. Therefore it is not possible to provide figures on how much small business rate relief has been claimed in 2009-10 to date. The amount of small business rate relief claimed by businesses in each region in 2009-10 will be available following the publication of the Statistical Release on "National non-domestic rates collected by local authorities in England 2009-10" later this year.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the number of properties on which empty property business rate relief was claimed in each region in 2009. [323821]

Barbara Follett: Details of the number of properties on which empty property business rate relief was claimed in each region in England as at 31 December 2008, the latest date for which data are available, are given in the following table:

	Number of properties claiming empty property relief as at 31 December 2008 (Thousand)
North East	7.6
North West	27.6
Yorkshire and the Humber	17.1
East Midlands	12.2
West Midlands	18.2
East of England	15.0

	Number of properties claiming empty property relief as at 31 December 2008 (Thousand)
London	20.8
South East	15.8
South West	13.6
Total England	147.9

Data as at 31 December 2009 will be available later in 2010.

Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will end the requirements made by the density targets in Planning Policy Statement 3. [324002]

Mr. Ian Austin: The density target in Planning Policy Statement 3 is an indicative target rather than a prescriptive one and it allows for flexibility where needed. PPS3 states that local planning authorities may wish to set out a range of densities across the plan area rather than one broad density range although 30 dwellings per hectare net should be used as a national indicative minimum to guide policy development and decision-making, until local density policies are in place. PPS3 goes on to say that where local authorities wish to plan for, or agree to, densities below this minimum, this will need to be justified.

Recycling: Conferences

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the speaking notes and accompanying materials used by the Audit Commission speaker at the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee Conference in 2008. [323986]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 25 March 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

A copy of the information requested has been placed in the House of Commons Library. The presentation referred to the Audit Commission report Well Disposed, which can be found on our website at:

www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nationalstudies/localgov/Pages/welldisposed.aspx

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Right to Buy Scheme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average right to buy discount was *(a)* in cash terms, *(b)* in real terms in 2010 prices and *(c)* as a proportion of the market value of the property in (i) England and (ii) each Government Office Region in England in each year since 1996-97. [319311]

Mr. Ian Austin: The average right to buy discount in cash terms and real term and as a proportion of the market value of the property in England and its regions are shown in the table. Figures are not available prior to 1998-09 and the discounts in real terms are presented in 2008-09 prices in line with the latest GDP deflator series.

	Average RTB discount per dwelling (cash terms)	Average RTB discount per dwelling (in real terms)	Average RTB discount as a percentage of market value
North East			
1998-99	14,490	18,469	48
1999-2000	10,670	13,337	47
2000-01	12,590	15,533	47
2001-02	11,680	14,096	46
2002-03	13,240	15,479	45
2003-04	14,850	16,885	42
2004-05	18,800	20,798	34
2005-06	21,140	22,959	34
2006-07	21,010	22,162	31
2007-08	21,460	22,001	28
2008-09	21,650	21,650	29
North West			
1998-99	16,510	21,043	48
1999-2000	16,670	20,837	48
2000-01	16,700	20,604	47
2001-02	17,230	20,793	46
2002-03	18,200	21,278	45
2003-04	19,460	22,127	43
2004-05	21,370	23,641	41
2005-06	23,590	25,619	37
2006-07	24,580	25,927	34
2007-08	25,210	25,846	32
2008-09	25,370	25,370	32
Yorkshire and the Humber			
1998-99	15,650	19,947	47
1999-2000	15,650	19,562	47
2000-01	15,630	19,284	46
2001-02	16,260	19,623	46
2002-03	16,270	19,021	44
2003-04	18,110	20,592	43
2004-05	20,250	22,402	40
2005-06	22,550	24,490	35
2006-07	23,030	24,292	31
2007-08	23,740	24,339	28
2008-09	23,050	23,050	29
East Midlands			
1998-99	18,260	23,274	50
1999-2000	16,740	20,924	46
2000-01	17,100	21,097	45
2001-02	17,830	21,517	43
2002-03	21,390	25,007	41
2003-04	21,820	24,810	[illegible]
2004-05	22,420	24,803	35
2005-06	22,770	24,729	31
2006-07	23,600	24,894	28
2007-08	23,850	24,452	27
2008-09	23,860	23,860	29
West Midlands			
1998-99	18,230	23,236	49
1999-2000	18,470	23,087	48

	Average RTB discount per dwelling (cash terms)	Average RTB discount per dwelling (in real terms)	Average RTB discount as a percentage of market value
2000-01	19,960	24,626	49
2001-02	19,840	23,943	47
2002-03	20,330	23,768	44
2003-04	22,580	25,675	40
2004-05	23,930	26,474	34
2005-06	25,060	27,216	33
2006-07	25,650	26,423	30
2007-08	25,620	26,266	30
2008-09	25,820	25,820	30
East			
1998-99	25,020	31,890	49
1999-2000	27,350	34,187	47
2000-01	27,300	33,682	45
2001-02	27,830	33,586	43
2002-03	30,360	35,494	39
2003-04	31,360	35,658	35
2004-05	32,580	36,043	33
2005-06	33,250	36,110	30
2006-07	33,020	34,830	27
2007-08	33,790	34,643	25
2008-09	33,960	33,960	25
London			
1998-99	34,070	43,425	53
1999-2000	36,150	45,186	51
2000-01	37,140	45,822	48
2001-02	36,990	44,640	42
2002-03	35,980	42,041	37
2003-04	37,190	42,287	32
2004-05	35,490	39,262	28
2005-06	30,280	32,885	22
2006-07	21,150	22,309	14
2007-08	20,710	21,233	13
2008-09	20,990	20,990	10
South East			
1998-99	29,780	37,937	50
1999-2000	30,760	38,449	47
2000-01	31,060	38,321	44
2001-02	32,640	39,390	42
2002-03	34,510	40,346	39
2003-04	36,200	41,161	35
2004-05	36,640	40,535	32
2005-06	36,850	40,020	30
2006-07	36,500	38,501	28
2007-08	36,880	37,811	26
2008-09	36,690	36,690	26
South West			
1998-99	21,230	27,059	50
1999-2000	21,670	27,087	48
2000-01	23,090	28,488	46
2001-02	24,880	30,025	44
2002-03	26,460	30,934	40
2003-04	28,430	32,326	36
2004-05	28,870	31,939	34
2005-06	29,150	31,658	31
2006-07	29,310	30,917	28
2007-08	29,660	30,408	27
2008-09	29,320	29,320	24

	Average RTB discount per dwelling (cash terms)	Average RTB discount per dwelling (in real terms)	Average RTB discount as a percentage of market value
England			
1998-99	22,880	29,162	50
1999-2000	23,630	29,537	48
2000-01	23,880	29,462	47
2001-02	23,380	28,215	44
2002-03	23,790	27,813	41
2003-04	24,640	28,017	37
2004-05	25,650	28,376	33
2005-06	25,530	27,726	31
2006-07	24,970	26,339	27
2007-08	25,340	25,979	24
2008-09	25,410	25,410	24

Source:
Local authority returns to CLG on P1B

Tesco: Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1162W, on Tesco: planning permission, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the rulings of the Planning Inspectorate relating to Tesco. [323999]

Mr. Ian Austin: Copies of each of the Planning Inspectorate's appeal decisions have today been placed in the Library of the House.

It should be noted that in the instance of cases concerning linked appeals, joint decisions were issued.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

GCSE

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* Staffordshire County Council area and *(b)* England left school with (i) no GCSEs, (ii) at least one GCSE at grade A, (iii) at least one GCSE at grade B and (iv) at least one GCSE at grade C or D in each year since 1997. [323023]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The latest information on GCSE attainment has been published in SFR01/2010 "GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2008/09 (Revised)", which was released on 13 January 2010. This is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000909/index.shtml

Becta: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to his Department's press release of 9 March 2010, on school business managers, what the revised budget of Becta is, broken down by subheading. [323225]

Mr. Coaker: The announcement proposed savings based on Becta's 2010-11 allocated revenue budget of £65.151 million of which £2.25 million is received as an allocation from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The announced savings amount to £20 million in 2011-12 and £25 million in 2012-13. Details of the breakdown FY 2011-13 budgets have not yet been finalised.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what methodology is used in the Building Schools for the Future programme to *(a)* determine whether value for money will be achieved in the selection of suppliers and *(b)* evaluate whether value for money has been achieved in the work undertaken by suppliers. [323847]

Mr. Coaker: In accordance with the requirements of the European procurement regime, bidders are selected on the basis of the "most economically advantageous tender". This means that the value for money of the bidders' proposals are tested in a confidential competitive environment and evaluated in terms of both price and quality against the local authority's requirements. There are a number of different approaches to project delivery available for Building Schools for the Future, the preferred approaches being to use a Local Education Partnership (LEP) or to use the Contractor Framework managed by Partnerships for Schools on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families. When either approach is being used, the contractual arrangements between the parties require that value for money is demonstrated and that key performance indicators and continuous improvement commitments are met.

Once a supplier is selected, the authority monitors the work undertaken (or arranges for the work to be monitored) to ensure compliance with the contractual requirements upon which the price is based.

Children in Care: Child Trust Fund

Ruth Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities *(a)* ensure that the full £100 Child Trust Fund annual payments for looked-after children are put in their individual account and *(b)* have used all or part of these payments for other purposes. [322391]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 17 March 2010]:* Information about annual £100 Child Trust Fund top-up payments made by local authorities to the accounts of individual looked-after children who are eligible is not collected centrally. Statutory guidance

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/childrenincare/childtrustfund/childtrustfund/ [1]

on arrangements for the payment of Child Trust Funds was issued to local authorities in England under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 which they must act under when performing their duties under section 22(3)(a) (duty to promote the welfare of a looked after child) of the Children Act 1989. The devolved Administrations have also put guidance on the payment of Child Trust Funds in place.

[1] Child Trust Fund Account Top Up Payments For Looked After Children: Statutory Guidance on Local Authority Practice in England.

Children: Human Trafficking

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of child victims of trafficking in the UK. [320757]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect this information which is in any case intrinsically difficult given the hidden nature of the crime. However, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) estimated that around 325 children were believed to have been trafficked into the UK. This was taken from their 'Strategic Threat Assessment: Child Trafficking in the UK' published in April 2009. The estimate was derived from data covering the period 1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008.

Children: Language Difficulties

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the provision of early-stage learning facilities and support for children with language difficulties; and if he will make a statement. [322018]

Dawn Primarolo: Following the Bercow review of services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), the Government published "Better Communication: An action plan to improve services for children and young people with SLCN", backed by £12 million investment. As part of the action plan, we—together with the Department of Health are piloting good practice in commissioning SLCN services in 16 areas in order to develop a national framework to improve the way services are delivered for children across the country.

In the Early Years, we have taken substantial steps to improve the quality of early learning and care including the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage which sets the standards for supporting children's early learning and care from birth to five. Alongside the EYFS, we are investing in the work force, including targeted programmes like Every Child a Talker (ECaT) designed to improve children's early language development through professional development for practitioners. ECaT was launched with a first wave of local authorities in 2008. It has promoted co-operation between local services, especially between Speech and Language services and early learning and care, to support children experiencing and at risk of language delay. From April 2010, all local authorities in England will have been funded to run the programme.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families staff in which posts of Ofsted are permitted to read full serious case reviews. [321638]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 11 March 2010]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 10 March 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The Ofsted personnel who read the full serious case reviews are senior social care inspectors, usually Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) of social care. For quality assurance purposes, some parts of the full serious case reviews will also be read by their senior managers, who are also qualified social care professionals. As Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, I also have access to full serious case reviews.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt. Hon. Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families staff in which posts in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* local education authorities are permitted to read full serious case reviews. [321639]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is sent an anonymised copy of each final Serious Case Review (SCR) by the LSCB concerned. These are forwarded by the relevant official in the DCSF Safeguarding Group to the researchers responsible for preparing biennial overview reports on Serious Case Reviews. Other post holders in the group may see a copy of a final SCR report if it is necessary for them to do so in the exercise of their responsibilities.

The statutory guidance "Working Together To Safeguard Children" states that Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are responsible for undertaking SCRs and for determining who should have access to any part of the SCR. The membership of the LSCB must include representatives from the local authority.

Children's Centres

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent assessment is of the contribution of Sure Start children's centres to the objectives of his Department. [323020]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* Sure Start Children's Centres are becoming a universal service—on 16 March, the Prime Minster announced that the Government had met their target for 3,500 Sure Start Children's Centres in England. Children's Centres provide access to integrated services for young children and their families. They contribute to all Every Child Matters outcomes and a number of my Department's Strategic Objectives, in particular: to secure the wellbeing and health of children and young people; achieve world class standards in education; and close the gap in educational achievement for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The National Evaluation of Sure Start, which has been under way since 2001, is comparing the development of children living in areas with children's centres originally established as Sure Start Local Programmes with children living in other areas. Its most recent report published in 2008 provides evidence of improved outcomes for children and families living in early Sure Start areas. Families living in early Sure Start areas used more child and family-related services than those living elsewhere. The reported benefits appeared to apply to all social groups, including those facing most disadvantages.

The National Evaluation showed that children behave better and are more independent if they live in early Sure Start areas. Parents have more positive parenting skills and provide a better home learning environment for their children, helping prepare children to do well at school and make the most of their talents.

The 2008 Foundation Stage Profile results show that 21,000 more five-year-olds are achieving a good level of development across a range of areas of learning and at the same time gaps have narrowed—lowest achieving children and children from disadvantaged areas are starting to catch up. These results suggest that our reforms and investment in the early years—including through Sure Start—are starting to have an impact on all children, and in narrowing gaps.

The latest report from the National Evaluation of Sure Start indicated that young children living in the early Sure Start areas were more likely to have received the recommended immunisations and less likely to have had an accident resulting in injury.

The Department's research on the use of children's centres, carried out by Taylor Nelson Sofres, entailed interviews with parents and carers of young children during 2008. The report in 2009 indicated that 78 per cent. of respondents knew about their local centre, and 92 per cent. who had used their local centre were satisfied with the service they received. The report also showed high levels of satisfaction with individual services provided through children's centres such as child care, nursery education, health, and family and parenting services.

Children's Centres: Greater Manchester

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* the City of Manchester and *(b)* Manchester, Central constituency attend Sure Start centres. [321067]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The 40 designated Sure Start Children's Centres in the city of Manchester local authority have a combined reach of over 35,000 children under five and their families. The 12 centres in Manchester, Central constituency have a combined reach of over 9,000 children under five and their families. Reach area defines those children and families with the opportunity to access children's centres. Figures for the number of children under five and their families actually attending and using children's centres are not collected centrally.

Children's Centres: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start centres have been established on Merseyside; and what assessment he has made of their effectiveness. [322632]

Dawn Primarolo: There are a total of 83 designated Sure Start Children's Centres in Merseyside reaching over 66,800 children under five and their families. Reach area defines those children and families with the opportunity to access children's centres. Merseyside is assumed to refer to five local authorities: Liverpool, Wirral, Sefton, St. Helen's and Knowsley.

The Department's guidance to children's centre leaders and local authorities sets an expectation that they should evaluate the effectiveness of children's centre services.

The National Evaluation of Sure Start started in 2001 and last reported in 2008. Evidence from the last report showed improvements in outcomes for children and families living in areas served by children's centres, including children's behaviour and parents' support for their children's learning at home. The benefits appeared to apply to all social groups, including those facing most disadvantage. Awareness and satisfaction of children's centres is high. The TNS Research Report (2008) shows; 78 per cent. of all respondents knew about their local centre; 74 per cent. were familiar with the term 'Children's Centre'; and levels of satisfaction were very high with 92 per cent. of all users saying they were satisfied (68 per cent. were very satisfied). The Department has recently commissioned an evaluation of the implementation and impact of the full range of children's centres, with a first report expected in late 2010.

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he expects his Department to spend on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* print and *(d)* online advertising in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [310218]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The forecasted figures for the requested advertising streams in 2009/10 are outlined in the following table. Planned expenditure in these areas for 2010/11 is not available at this time.

Advertising stream	*Projected expenditure (£)*
Television	5,498,419
Radio	2,670,910
Print	1,576,590
Online	2,208,908

Departmental Audit

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has updated its Allegations Audit, undertaken in 2003-04. [319937]

Dawn Primarolo: Similar data to those collected in the 2003-04 Allegations Audit were collected in 2004-05, and less detailed data on allegations were collected in 2007. The data collected in 2004-05 were used to inform the development of guidance on handling allegations of abuse made against those who work with children and young people, but were not published as a data set. The data collected in 2007 were used to inform the review of implementation of guidance on handling allegations. The analysis of those data were included within the report of the review published in May 2009 and are available to download from the Every Child Matters website.

Departmental Internet

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department allocated for establishing and maintaining www.beGrand.net in the last 12 months. [318285]

Dawn Primarolo: The funding for the proposals outlined in "Support for All: the Families and Relationships Green Paper" has been allocated from current budgets. Funding of £1,058,000 has been allocated in 2009-10 to the BeGrand consortium to develop, build and maintain the service for grandparents.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on development of the begrand.net website; and how much has been budgeted for the development of the website in each of the next three years. [318944]

Dawn Primarolo: The BeGrand consortium was contracted in August 2009 to develop and build the BeGrand service for grandparents. Funding of £1,058,000 has been allocated in 2009-10 and £1,156,000 has been allocated in 2010-11. Funding has not been allocated beyond March 2011 as the current spending review expires at 31 March 2011.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department and agencies have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320495]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department did not undertake any work on the two campaigns in 2008/09. Expenditure on the campaigns in 2009/10 is not currently available.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to his Department was of ministerial cars in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [304735]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was established in June 2007. Costs for providing official cars since inception are:

	£
1 June 2007-31 March 2008	[1]
1 April 2008-31 March 2009	69,300
1 April 2009-present	55,398

[1] Can be obtained only at disproportionate cost

GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at how many *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* maintained mainstream secondary schools at which more than 50 per cent. of pupils were eligible for free school meals fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils received five A*-C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [312247]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* In 2009, there were 26 maintained mainstream secondary schools where more than 50 per cent. of pupils are eligible for free school meals and fewer than 30 per cent of pupils received five A*-C grades at GCSE including English and Mathematics but excluding equivalents.

In 2008, there were 33 maintained mainstream secondary schools where more than 50 per cent. of pupils are eligible for free school meals and fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils received five A*-C grades at GCSE including English and Mathematics but excluding equivalents.

Figures relating to free school meal eligibility were not collected in 1997.

Information regarding pupils eligible for free school meals is not collected from independent schools.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals were entered for GCSEs in English literature, physics, chemistry, biology, history and a foreign language in 2009. [315522]

Mr. Coaker: In 2009, 22,721 pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 were entered for GCSE examinations in the combination of English literature, physics, chemistry, biology, history and any modern foreign language.

Of these, 631 pupils were known to be eligible for free school meals, 22,084 were not eligible for free school meals and there were six pupils for whom free school meal eligibility could not be determined.

These figures relate to pupils in maintained schools only, including CTCs and academies. Information collected on free school meals forms part of the School Census which is carried out only in maintained schools. This free school meal information is then linked to attainment data. It relates to those pupils known to be eligible to receive free meals rather than those in receipt of free meals.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals were entered for (i) English literature, (ii) physics, (iii) chemistry, (iv) biology, (v) history and (vi) a foreign language GCSE in 2009. [315523]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is shown in the following table and relates to pupils in 2009 in maintained schools only, including CTCs and academies.

	Number of pupils	
	known to be eligible for free school meals	*not eligible for free school meals*
Pupils who entered for GCSEs in:		
English literature	44,942	399,628
Physics	2,954	64,231
Chemistry	2,985	64,334
Biology	3,525	67,757
History	13,466	160,415
At least one modern foreign language	19,030	220,167

Information collected on free school meals forms part of the School Census which is only carried out in maintained schools. This free school meal information is then linked to attainment data. It relates to those pupils known to be eligible to receive free meals rather than those in receipt of free meals.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils *(a)* eligible for free school meals and *(b)* in comprehensive schools gained five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics and excluding equivalents in 2009. [315525]

Mr. Coaker: In 2009, 17,784 pupils eligible for free school meals gained five GCSEs at A*-C including English and mathematics and excluding equivalents.

In 2009, 248,348 pupils in comprehensive schools gained five GCSEs at A*-C including English and mathematics and excluding equivalents.

These figures were derived from the National Pupil Database (NPD).

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals at the end of Key Stage 4 achieved five A* or A grades at GCSE including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in (i) 2003 and (ii) 2009. [318966]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* The information requested is presented in the following table and is for maintained schools only.

	Number of pupils[1] achieving 5 or more A or A grades at GCSE including English and Maths (excluding equivalents)*		*Percentage achieving 5 or more A* or A grades at GCSE including English and Maths (excluding equivalents)*	
	Eligible for FSM	*Not eligible for FSM*	*Eligible for FSM*	*Not eligible for FSM*
2003	791	33,538	1.0	6.8
2009	1,257	45,535	1.7	9.0

[1] Figures for 2003 are based on pupils aged 15 and 2009 figures are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4.

Source:
National Pupil Database

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many and what proportion of schools in the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest index of multiple deprivation decile less than 30 per cent. of pupils obtained five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in the most recent year for which figures are available. [311639]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer18 January 2010]:* The information requested for the academic year 2008/09 is provided in the following table:

The number and proportion of schools[1] in the highest and lowest Indices of Multiple Deprivation decile[2] in which less than 30 per cent. of pupils[3] obtained five or more GCSEs at grades A-C including English and maths GCSEs, but excluding equivalents[4] in 2008/09*

IMD decile[2]	Number of schools	Number of schools where fewer than 30 per cent. of eligible pupils achieved 5+ A*-C at GCSE including English and maths GCSEs, excluding equivalents in 2008/09	Percentage of schools where fewer than 30 per cent. of eligible pupils achieved 5+ A*-C at GCSE including English and maths GCSEs, excluding equivalents in 2008/09
0-10%—most deprived	233	88	38
90-100%—least deprived	292	4	1
England total	2,988	398	13

[1] Including only those open maintained mainstream schools with results published in the relevant years Achievement and Attainment tables and with more than ten pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 on roll.
[2] 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation at Super\Output Area level based on the location of the school.
[3] Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.
[4] Qualifications included are full GCSEs, GCSE short courses, GCSE double awards, vocational single and double GCSEs and AS-levels.
Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables (2008/09 revised data)

GCSE: Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils classified as persistent truants gained five GCSEs at A*-C including English and mathematics in the latest year for which figures are available. [315520]

Mr. Coaker: The latest data which match absence with attainment data are available for 2008 and relate to persistent absentees rather than 'truants'.

In 2008, 7.2 per cent. of persistent absentees in state funded secondary schools attained five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C or the equivalent, including GCSEs in English and mathematics. In 2007 this figure was lower with 6.4 per cent. of persistent absentees attaining five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C or the equivalent, including GCSEs in English and mathematics in state funded secondary schools.

The available information relates to persistent absentees, who are defined as pupils missing approximately 20 per cent. of possible sessions for the relevant statistical reporting period. On an annual basis this threshold is 64 or more sessions of absence, (authorised or unauthorised) during the year. (On a two term, autumn and spring basis, the threshold is typically 52 sessions). Unauthorised absence is defined as absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Languages: Schools

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools were given the status of specialist language centre in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [323932]

Mr. Coaker: As part of the specialist schools programme, which covers only schools in England, there are 381 specialist language schools. Since 2005, 199 schools have been given specialist language college status; 17 in 2005, 77 in 2006, 14 in 2007, 46 in 2008 and 45 in 2009.

National Bullying Helpline

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department and its predecessors have made any payments to *(a)* the National Bullying Helpline and *(b)* HR and Diversity Management Limited since 2004. [320134]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's financial records show that no payments have been made to either the 'National Bullying Helpline' or 'HR and Diversity Management Ltd.' since 2004.

National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many schools in each local authority fewer than 50 per cent. of pupils attained Key Stage 2 at level 4 or above in both English and mathematics in the latest period for which figures are available. [323993]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 24 March 2010]:* The latest information is available in the 2009 Achievement and Attainment Tables (AATs) and the Library.

The 2009 AATs can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/primary_09.shtml

National Curriculum Tests: Sheffield

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of 11-year-olds achieved Level 4 at Key Stage 2 in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* English and mathematics in each Sheffield constituency in each year since 1998; [323757]

(2) how many schools in each Sheffield constituency there were in which fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and mathematics in each year since 1998; [323758]

(3) how many and what proportion of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C in each Sheffield constituency in each year since 1998. [323759]

Mr. Coaker: The available information for PQ 323757 is in table one. Information on the number of pupils achieving level 4 or above at Key Stage 2 in English and mathematics combined is not available before the 2003/04 academic year.

The available information for PQ 323758 and the requested information for PQ 323759 is in tables two and three. The academic year 2004/05 was the first year in which the Department published school level data on the percentage of schools achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and maths GCSEs.

Table 1: The number and proportion of pupils[1] in maintained schools[2] in each Sheffield constituency[3] achieving level 4 or above in Key Stage 2, 1998 to 2009

		Number of pupils achieving level 4 in English	Proportion of pupils achieving level 4 in English	Number of pupils achieving level 4 in mathematics	Proportion of pupils achieving level 4 in mathematics	Number of pupils achieving level 4 in English and mathematics	Proportion of pupils achieving level 4 in English and mathematics
1998	Sheffield, Attercliffe	592	55	559	51	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Brightside	457	42	435	40	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield Central	468	47	434	44	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Hallam	640	80	621	78	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Heeley	504	57	472	54	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Hillsborough	717	66	647	60	n/a	n/a
1999	Sheffield, Attercliffe	726	63	742	64	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Brightside	544	53	567	55	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield Central	544	53	557	55	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Hallam	672	84	683	86	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Heeley	623	61	660	64	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Hillsborough	783	72	786	72	n/a	n/a
2000	Sheffield, Attercliffe	743	69	696	65	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Brightside	604	57	585	55	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield Central	566	58	536	54	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Hallam	740	87	722	85	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Heeley	643	69	611	65	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Hillsborough	824	75	821	74	n/a	n/a
2001	Sheffield, Attercliffe	728	67	680	63	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Brightside	574	54	511	48	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield Central	566	57	590	60	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Hallam	685	85	666	83	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Heeley	615	65	578	61	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Hillsborough	871	78	833	75	n/a	n/a
2002	Sheffield, Attercliffe	834	71	852	73	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Brightside	584	55	596	56	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield Central	564	56	599	60	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Hallam	745	87	734	85	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Heeley	677	67	673	66	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Hillsborough	860	74	873	75	n/a	n/a
2003	Sheffield, Attercliffe	847	71	832	69	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Brightside	578	54	556	52	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield Central	563	60	565	61	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Hallam	702	85	697	85	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Heeley	670	69	657	68	n/a	n/a
	Sheffield, Hillsborough	911	78	829	71	n/a	n/a
2004	Sheffield, Attercliffe	899	75	821	69	758	64
	Sheffield, Brightside	586	57	572	56	469	46
	Sheffield Central	611	63	592	61	510	52
	Sheffield, Hallam	748	88	711	84	682	80
	Sheffield, Heeley	620	67	600	65	529	57
	Sheffield, Hillsborough	903	80	870	77	794	71
2005	Sheffield, Attercliffe	876	74	822	70	767	65
	Sheffield, Brightside	606	61	569	57	493	50
	Sheffield Central	618	64	597	62	510	53
	Sheffield, Hallam	728	88	684	83	659	80
	Sheffield, Heeley	639	69	614	66	545	59
	Sheffield, Hillsborough	886	82	826	77	779	72
2006	Sheffield, Attercliffe	878	75	828	71	754	65
	Sheffield, Brightside	576	57	559	55	465	46
	Sheffield Central	602	65	579	62	507	54
	Sheffield, Hallam	706	88	689	86	654	81
	Sheffield, Heeley	606	70	615	71	544	62

Table 1: The number and proportion of pupils[1] in maintained schools[2] in each Sheffield constituency[3] achieving level 4 or above in Key Stage 2, 1998 to 2009

		Number of pupils achieving level 4 in English	Proportion of pupils achieving level 4 in English	Number of pupils achieving level 4 in mathematics	Proportion of pupils achieving level 4 in mathematics	Number of pupils achieving level 4 in English and mathematics	Proportion of pupils achieving level 4 in English and mathematics
	Sheffield, Hillsborough	809	79	784	77	721	70
2007	Sheffield, Attercliffe	871	78	810	72	753	67
	Sheffield, Brightside	569	59	559	58	469	49
	Sheffield Central	530	62	505	59	435	51
	Sheffield, Hallam	713	90	682	86	656	83
	Sheffield, Heeley	624	73	600	70	542	63
	Sheffield, Hillsborough	851	81	820	78	750	72
2008	Sheffield, Attercliffe	866	77	815	73	748	67
	Sheffield, Brightside	603	64	621	66	516	55
	Sheffield Central	632	68	619	67	529	57
	Sheffield, Hallam	749	91	721	88	701	85
	Sheffield, Heeley	644	74	612	70	549	63
	Sheffield, Hillsborough	921	85	891	82	843	78
2009	Sheffield, Attercliffe	814	76	789	74	706	66
	Sheffield, Brightside	549	62	579	65	481	54
	Sheffield Central	634	70	651	72	557	61
	Sheffield, Hallam	737	88	710	85	690	82
	Sheffield, Heeley	636	73	661	76	591	68
	Sheffield, Hillsborough	901	84	871	82	821	77

n/a = Not available.
[1] Pupils eligible for English, mathematics or science.
[2] All maintained schools (including City Technology Colleges and Academies).
[3] Parliamentary Constituency figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.
Source:
National Pupil Database and Achievement and Attainment Tables (final data)

Table 2: The number of maintained mainstream schools[1] in each Sheffield constituency in which less than 30 per cent of pupils[2] obtained five or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A-C including English and maths GCSEs, 2004/05 to 2008/09*

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Sheffield, Attercliffe	2	1	1	1	0
Sheffield, Brightside	5	5	5	5	3
Sheffield Central	1	0	1	1	1
Sheffield, Hallam	0	1	1	1	1
Sheffield, Heeley	2	1	1	1	1
Sheffield, Hillsborough	1	0	1	0	0

[1] Including only those open maintained mainstream schools with results published in the relevant years Achievement and attainment tables and with more than ten pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 on roll.
[2] Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.
Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables (2004/05 - 2007/08 final data, 2008/09 revised data)

Table 3: The number and proportion of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained schools[1] in each Sheffield constituency[2] achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalent[3] at grades A-C, 1997/98 - 2008/09[4]*

		Sheffield, Attercliffe	Sheffield, Brightside	Sheffield Central	Sheffield, Hallam	Sheffield, Heeley	Sheffield, Hillsborough
1997/98	Number of pupils	264	127	32	784	335	340
	Proportion of pupils	34.3	16.2	11.2	59.1	38.2	37.8
1998/99	Number of pupils	284	110	25	746	350	349
	Proportion of pupils	36.0	13.9	8.9	56.3	38.4	40.5
1999/2000	Number of pupils	281	165	42	848	367	408
	Proportion of pupils	34.9	19.5	15.7	59.8	41.6	44.4
2000/01	Number of pupils	321	179	52	830	384	433
	Proportion of pupils	38.8	21.1	18.7	59.7	40.5	46.1
2001/02	Number of pupils	310	211	71	854	387	463
	Proportion of pupils	35.7	23.5	22.3	59.5	40.1	44.1
2002/03	Number of pupils	345	249	82	912	378	466
	Proportion of pupils	38.0	26.8	24.2	64.6	38.9	44.0
2003/04	Number of pupils	406	268	97	909	428	496
	Proportion of pupils	40.5	28.8	28.0	63.5	41.6	46.5
2004/05	Number of pupils	395	290	109	974	380	532
	Proportion of pupils	40.3	31.5	31.7	68.3	39.0	49.2
2005/06	Number of pupils	415	311	114	961	429	560

Table 3: The number and proportion of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained schools[1] in each Sheffield constituency[2] achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalent[3] at grades A-C, 1997/98 - 2008/09[4]*

		Sheffield, Attercliffe	Sheffield, Brightside	Sheffield Central	Sheffield, Hallam	Sheffield, Heeley	Sheffield, Hillsborough
	Proportion of pupils	43.5	32.1	32.9	67.5	42.7	52.9
2006/07	Number of pupils	481	385	151	989	499	588
	Proportion of pupils	49.0	38.9	41.4	67.2	48.3	55.6
2007/08	Number of pupils	566	443	165	989	531	677
	Proportion of pupils	56.5	44.8	46.7	68.7	53.5	61.9
2008/09	Number of pupils	677	531	198	1043	615	678
	Proportion of pupils	68.1	56.2	55.2	72.9	62.7	65.8

[1] All maintained schools (including City Technology Colleges and Academies).
[2] Parliamentary constituency figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.
[3] From 1997/98 includes GNVQ equivalences and from 2003/04 other equivalences approved for use pre-16.
[4] Figures for 2004/05 onwards are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Data for previous years are based on pupils aged 15 years old at the start of the academic year.
Source:
National Pupil Database and Achievement and Attainment Tables (1997/98 - 2007/08 final data, 2008/09 revised data)

Pre-school Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many two-year-olds he expects to have participated in free early years pre-school entitlement by 2016. [318418]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* By the end of March 2010 it is expected some 20,000 two-year-olds from the most disadvantaged backgrounds will have access to a free early learning and child care place each year.

We will continue to make progress on the long-term ambition that the Prime Minister has set out to provide free part-time nursery places for all two-year-olds whose parents want them.

Decisions regarding the pace of future roll-out will need to be taken in the light of wider fiscal considerations as part of the next spending review.

Pre-school Education: Northampton

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many nursery places there were for children in Northampton in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2010. [321280]

Dawn Primarolo: Table 1 shows the number of part-time equivalent places filled by three and four-year-olds in Northamptonshire local authority in 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2009. Data for 2010 are not yet available and will be published in the summer, so 2009 has been provided instead.

Data on the number of places available are not collected; only data on the number of places filled are available as children can access their free entitlement across different local authorities.

Part-time equivalent places are derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and two and a half hours per week as 0.2 places.

Table 1: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2, 3] filled by three and four-year-olds[4], local authority: Northamptonshire, position in January each year

	Number of places
1997	9,700
2001	11,000
2005	14,000
2009	15,100

[1] A place is equal to 12.5 hours (five sessions) and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the nursery education grant (NEG) data collection exercise. From 2004 onwards, information has been derived from Early Years Census and School Census data.
[4] Age of all children taken at 31 December in the previous calendar year.
Source:
Early Years Census and School Census.

The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000848/index.shtml

Primary Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 726-27W, on primary education, how the information included in the answer was compiled. [311101]

Mr. Coaker: Information included in the answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 726-27W, was derived from new analysis of pupil attendance data submitted as part of the School Census. Attendance records are returned for each period of time spent in a relevant school in a school year.

Previous questions on this subject have not been answered substantively because an appropriate methodology had not been developed and to do so would have incurred disproportionate cost. However, a methodology based on pupil attendance data has since been developed that can be used to answer this type of question.

Pupil Exclusions: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been permanently excluded from *(a)* primary, *(b)*

middle, *(c)* upper and *(d)* secondary schools in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. [315374]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The available information requested is shown in the table.

From 2002, the Department has carried out a checking exercise to confirm the overall number of permanent exclusions. However, this only confirms the number of exclusions in each local authority area and not at school level. Therefore information for middle and upper schools is not separately identifiable.

The latest data on exclusions were published in a Statistical First Release on 30 July 2009 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number of pupil enrolments[2] with permanent exclusions, 1996/97 to 2007/08, Milton Keynes local authority

	Primary[1]		*State-funded secondary[1, 3]*	
	Number of permanent exclusions	*Percentage of the school population[4]*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of the school population[4]*
1996/97	10	0.05	20	0.21
1997/98	—	—	40	0.34
1998/99	10	0.05	10	0.12
1999/2000	20	0.09	20	0.13
2000/01	10	0.04	10	0.08
2001/02	20	0.09	30	0.20
2002/03[5]	20	0.08	30	0.21
2003/04[5]	20	0.07	20	0.16
2004/05[5]	10	0.06	40	0.27
2005/06[5]	*	*	50	0.30
2006/07[5]	10	0.05	40	0.28
2007/08[5]	10	0.03	30	0.20

Data are as published, i.e. using the following notation: * = less than 3, or a rate based on less than 3. — = less than 5, or a rate based on less than 5.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed (upper schools are included as secondary).

[2] Pupils may be counted more than once if they were registered at more than one school or moved schools during the school year.

[3] State-funded secondary schools include maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies. Milton Keynes local authority has no city technology colleges or academies.

[4] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January each year of the relevant school type.

[5] Estimates based on local authority figures following a checking exercise to confirm the overall number of permanent exclusions in each local authority.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey and School Census.

Schools: Admissions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many surplus places there are in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local authority; [324180]

(2) which local authorities which have over *(a)* 10 per cent. and *(b)* 25 per cent. surplus school places; [324181]

(3) which schools have surplus places; and how many surplus places each has. [324182]

Mr. Coaker: The Department collects information from each local authority on the number of surplus places through an annual survey. The most recent published data relate to the position at January 2009 and show the breakdown of surplus places by local authority in primary and secondary schools. The data are available at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/tsp/primarytoolkit/context/data

As requested, a copy of the data has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

A table showing the number of local authorities with a percentage of surplus places of 10 or above at primary level and those with a percentage of surplus of 10 or above at secondary level has also been placed in the Libraries. There are no local authorities with 25 per cent. or more surplus school places.

Schools: Consultants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides to *(a)* schools and *(b)* local authorities on their use of independent consultants and investigators. [323299]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not provide guidance on the use of independent consultants and investigators by either schools or local authorities in connection with school staff suspensions and disciplinary matters. The operation of disciplinary procedures, including those that may result in suspension, is a matter for local determination as are decisions on whether additional or external sources of advice and support should be engaged.

Schools: ICT

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department and its predecessors have provided for *(a)* computers and *(b)* information and communications technologies in schools and colleges in the City of Sunderland in the last five years for which figures are available. [313189]

Mr. Coaker: Funding for computers and information and communications technology in schools is made available predominantly via the Harnessing Technology Grant. This is paid by the Department to local authorities through the Standards Fund. The available figures on the amount of the Harnessing Technology Grant paid to the Sunderland local authority for each of the three years in the current spending period is set out in the following table:

Harnessing technology grant allocation to Sunderland

	£
2008/09	853,603
2009/10	952,606
2010/11	1,042,241
Total 2008/2011	2,848,450

However, the harnessing technology grant will not be the total ICT spend, as schools are free to use money from other sources on technological services and infrastructure. It should also be noted that the harnessing technology grant does not include funding that is being provided to the Government's educational technology

agency, Becta, in particular for the Home Access scheme (£300 million across England) which provides computers and an internet connection for eligible low income households.

Schools: Internet

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other support his Department has provided to the South West Grid for Learning in 2009-10; and whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of the grid on funding of broadband access for small primary schools. [323329]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The South-West Grid for Learning (SWGFL) has not received any funding or support from DCSF or Becta in 2009-10, other than (i) small-scale grants to help promote adoption of the Becta self-review framework by schools; and (ii) support in kind to become a Framework for ICT Technical Support (FITS) training partner. Becta personnel recently met the chief executive for SWGFL to continue discussions about an effective strategic partnership in the SW—the costs of their broadband provision to schools, and the possibility of giving schools greater choice over the range of SWGFL-provided services that they pay for were also raised.

Schools: Managers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what minimum qualifications will be required of school business managers; what the salary of a school business manager will be; and with what training school business managers will be provided. [323114]

Mr. Coaker: It is for schools to determine the appropriate level of qualification and salary for a School Business Manager. However, the National College for the Leadership of Schools and Children's Services has developed a career pathway comprising three programmes: the Certificate, the Diploma and the Advanced Diploma of School Business Management, which maps across the recently published National Association of School Business Management (NASBM) Competency Framework. There are currently 7,362[1] qualified School Business Managers, with a further 3,011[1] undergoing training.

Source:

[1] National College for the Leadership of Schools and Children's Services programme statistics.

Science: GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals were entered for GCSEs in *(a)* biology and chemistry but not physics, *(b)* biology and physics but not chemistry, *(c)* physics and chemistry but not biology and *(d)* physics, chemistry and biology in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [317219]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* Of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2009, in maintained schools, eligible for free school meals:

41 were entered for biology and chemistry but not physics GCSEs,

11 were entered for biology and physics but not chemistry GCSEs,

8 were entered for physics and chemistry but not biology GCSEs, and

2,911 were entered for physics, chemistry and biology GCSEs.

Comparable figures for 1997 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2005, in maintained schools, eligible for free school meals:

60 were entered for biology and chemistry but not physics GCSEs,

12 were entered for biology and physics but not chemistry GCSEs,

6 were entered for physics and chemistry but not biology GCSEs, and

1,296 were entered for physics, chemistry and biology GCSEs.

Sixth Form Education: Admissions

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many surplus places there were in school sixth forms in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [323295]

Mr. Coaker: The Department collects information from each local authority on the number of primary and secondary surplus school places via an annual survey.

The number of surplus places is not broken down into year groups. Local authorities provide the number of places (net capacity) for each secondary school as a whole; school sixth forms are not reported on separately because much of the space in secondary schools is shared between sixth form and other pupils.

The following table shows the number of surplus places in maintained secondary schools between 2005 and 2009 which are the most recent data available.

	Secondary surplus places[1]	*Surplus as a percentage of total secondary places*
2009	309,712	9
2008	298,859	9
2007	271,175	8
2006	244,111	7
2005	227,168	7

[1] Number of places relate to position as at January

Source:
Surplus Places Survey

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to table 3 on page 17 of his Department's 16-19 Statement of priorities and investment strategy 2010-11, what specific data the Young People's Learning Agency used to predict an increase in 10,000 enrolments in academy sixth forms in 2010-11. [323296]

Mr. Coaker: The planned delivery of academy and city technology college sixth form places in academic year 2010/11 shown in the DCSF/LSC Statement of Priorities document is 37,000 compared with 25,000 in 2009/10. This increase was estimated in the autumn of 2009 using the 2009/10 funded numbers at existing academies and CTCs; the historical rate of increase in academy provision as their sixth forms grow (reflecting

their role in increasing participation) to estimate the growth into 2010/11; and the average size of sixth form in maintained schools converting into academies. The major part of the increase between years is actually due to the expected conversion of up to 80 maintained schools into academies in 2010/11. The actual increase in funded places will depend on the allocations process for individual academies, which is still under way.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at which mainstream *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools more than 50 per cent. of the pupils have statemented or non-statemented special educational needs. [316075]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* The list of maintained primary and state funded secondary schools at which more than 50 per cent. of the pupils have statemented or non-statemented special educational needs is shown in the following table.

Maintained primary and state funded secondary[1] schools at which more than 50 per cent. of pupils have statemented or non-statemented special educational needs. Year: January 2009. Coverage: England

Local authority name	*School name*	*Headcount of pupils[2]*	*Pupils with special educational needs with or without statements[3]*	
			Number	*Percentage*
Maintained primary schools				
Hampshire	Front Lawn Infant School	130	100	75.6
North East Lincolnshire	Grange Junior School	160	120	73.1
Brighton and Hove	Moulsecoomb Primary School	380	280	72.1
Hampshire	Trosnant Junior School and BESD Unit	210	150	70.8
Brighton and Hove	St. Mark's C of E Primary School	190	130	69.3
South Tyneside	Laygate School	300	210	68.9
North Somerset	St. Barnabas Church of England Primary School	40	30	67.6
Kirklees	Ashbrow Junior School	150	100	67.5
Nottinghamshire	Eastwood Junior School	90	60	65.1
Worcestershire	The Fairfield Community Primary School	190	120	64.9
Kent	Oak Trees Community School	160	100	64.7
Brighton and Hove	Whitehawk Primary School	310	200	63.8
Kent	Bysing Wood Primary School	80	50	63.8
Norfolk	Howard Infant and Nursery School, King's Lynn	150	90	63.3
Wolverhampton	Eastfield Junior and Infant School	170	110	62.7
City of Nottingham	Highwood Player Junior School	200	130	62.7
Dudley	Woodside Community School and Children's	280	170	62.6
Bradford	Horton Park Primary School	210	130	62.6
Essex	Crays Hill Primary School	100	60	62.1
Cheshire	Lache Primary School	230	140	61.9
Hampshire	South View Junior School	220	140	61.9
Waltham Forest	Whittingham Community Primary School	470	290	61.0
Norfolk	St. Edmund's Community Foundation School	180	110	60.6
North Yorkshire	Scarborough, Braeburn Community Junior School	180	110	60.3
Kent	Dame Janet Community Junior School	340	210	60.3
Kent	Parkside Community Primary School	150	90	59.7
Wakefield	Pontefract Willow Park Junior School	100	60	59.6
Lincolnshire	Sutton Bridge Westmere Community Primary	190	110	59.5
Kent	Murston Junior School	130	80	59.4
Lincolnshire	Theddlethorpe Primary School	80	50	59.2
Manchester	Gorton Mount Primary School	450	270	59.2
Rotherham	Maltby Crags Infant School	190	110	58.5
Hampshire	Meadowlands Infant School	80	50	58.4
Northamptonshire	Park Junior School, Wellingborough	230	140	58.4
Greenwich	Middle Park Primary School	330	190	58.3
Devon	Haytor View Community Primary School	190	110	57.7
Northamptonshire	Earl Spencer Primary School	190	110	57.5
Leeds	Middleton Primary School	340	200	57.5
Durham	St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided	130	80	57.5
Portsmouth	Arundel Court Junior School	230	130	57.3
Cheshire	Greenfields Primary School	180	100	57.2
Islington	New North Community School	410	230	57.1
Buckinghamshire	Tilehouse Combined School	140	80	57.0
Warwickshire	Hurley Primary School	140	80	56.9
Hillingdon	Brookside Primary School	430	250	56.8
Hampshire	Riders Junior School	230	130	56.8
Durham	St. John's Church of England Aided Primary School	240	140	56.8
Kent	Sherwood Park Community Primary School	350	200	56.7

Maintained primary and state funded secondary[1] schools at which more than 50 per cent. of pupils have statemented or non-statemented special educational needs. Year: January 2009. Coverage: England

Local authority name	School name	Headcount of pupils[2]	Pupils with special educational needs with or without statements[3]	
			Number	Percentage
Medway	All Faiths' Children's Community School	140	80	56.6
Wigan	Newton Westpark Primary School	140	80	56.4
Cumbria	Ewanrigg Junior School	150	80	56.4
Southend	Hamstel Junior School	470	260	56.2
Rotherham	Maltby Crags Junior School	190	110	56.1
Newcastle upon Tyne	Atkinson Road Primary School	330	180	55.8
Manchester	St. Wilfrid's C of E Junior and Infant School	220	130	55.8
North East Lincolnshire	Grange Infant and Nursery School	200	110	55.4
Blackburn with Darwen	Intack Primary School	220	120	55.3
Devon	Clovelly Primary School	20	10	55.0
Leicestershire	Dove Bank Primary School	90	50	54.9
Northamptonshire	Falconer's Hill Infant School	160	90	54.9
Hillingdon	Longmead Primary School	190	110	54.9
Kent	St. Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School	220	120	54.8
Redcar and Cleveland	Dormanstown Primary School	250	140	54.7
Hampshire	Riders Infant School	150	80	54.7
Kent	St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School	140	80	54.6
City of Nottingham	Huntingdon Primary and Nursery School	240	130	54.5
Derbyshire	Langwith Bassett Primary School	70	40	54.4
Kent	St. John's Church of England Primary School,	60	30	54.0
Durham	St. Pius X Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Pr	80	40	53.9
Wandsworth	Shaftesbury Park Primary School	280	150	53.8
Stockport	Bridge Hall Primary School	130	70	53.8
South Tyneside	Hedworthfield Primary School	230	120	53.7
Bradford	Parkland Primary School	190	100	53.7
Reading	George Palmer Primary School	400	220	53.6
Wiltshire	The Manor C of E VC Primary School	210	110	53.5
Buckinghamshire	Hannah Ball Infant School	60	30	53.4
North Tyneside	Shiremoor Primary School	390	210	53.4
Bradford	Parkwood Primary School	210	110	53.4
Brighton and Hove	Coombe Road Primary School	290	150	53.3
City of Nottingham	Brocklewood Junior School	180	100	53.3
Bolton	Top o'th'Brow Primary School	200	110	53.3
Rotherham	High Greave Infant School	180	100	53.3
Havering	Brookside Junior School	240	130	53.2
Medway	Luton Junior School	320	170	53.1
Darlington	Skerne Park Primary School	370	200	53.1
Kent	Newington Community Primary School	360	190	53.1
Norfolk	St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School	70	40	53.0
City of Peterborough	Abbotsmede Primary School	270	140	53.0
Somerset	Halcon Community Primary School	140	70	52.9
Somerset	Hamp Community Junior School	210	110	52.8
Durham	Woodhouse Community Primary School	200	110	52.8
Hounslow	Crane Park Primary School	350	180	52.5
Devon	Sticklepath Community School	300	160	52.3
Hampshire	Siskin Junior School	150	80	52.3
Camden	Richard Cobden Primary School	450	230	52.2
Kent	Kings Farm Primary School	250	130	52.2
Reading	Whitley Park Junior School	270	140	52.2
Knowsley	St. Dominic's Catholic Junior School	190	100	52.2
Hampshire	Chineham Park Primary School	100	50	52.0
Newcastle upon Tyne	Canning Street Primary School	450	230	51.9
Wirral	Fender Primary School	190	100	51.9
Lancashire	Cherry Fold Community Primary School	270	140	51.9
Hampshire	Trosnant Infant School	140	70	51.8
West Sussex	Bewbush Community Primary	410	210	51.7
Hammersmith and Fulham	Wormholt Park Primary School	440	230	51.7
Hertfordshire	Sandon Junior Mixed and Infant School	90	50	51.6
Newcastle upon Tyne	Thomas Walling Primary School	340	170	51.5
Hampshire	Meadowlands Junior School	100	50	51.5
Kent	Newlands Primary School	410	210	51.3
West Sussex	Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School	40	20	51.3

Maintained primary and state funded secondary[1] schools at which more than 50 per cent. of pupils have statemented or non-statemented special educational needs. Year: January 2009. Coverage: England

Local authority name	*School name*	*Headcount of pupils[2]*	*Pupils with special educational needs with or without statement[3]*	
			Number	*Percentage*
Warwickshire	All Saints C of E Infant School	120	60	51.3
Hampshire	Front Lawn Junior School	200	100	51.2
Bexley	Slade Green Infant School	240	130	51.2
Norfolk	Larkman Primary School	290	150	51.2
Kent	St. Mary of Charity C of E (Aided) Primary School	220	110	51.1
Doncaster	Mexborough Doncaster Road Junior School	90	50	51.1
Rotherham	Badsley Moor Infant School	240	120	51.1
Hampshire	South View Infant School	200	100	51.0
Cumbria	Newtown Community Primary School	110	50	50.9
Hampshire	Siskin Infant and Nursery School	170	90	50.9
Devon	Wynstream School	270	140	50.7
Southampton	Mason Moor Primary School	260	130	50.6
Leeds	Kippax Greenfield Primary School	170	90	50.6
Durham	Tow Law Millennium Primary School	90	50	50.6
Portsmouth	Paulsgrove Primary School	360	180	50.6
Cumbria	Monkwray Junior School	110	60	50.5
Kent	Northdown Primary School	330	170	50.5
Islington	Grafton Primary School	460	230	50.4
Leeds	Ebor Gardens Primary School	250	120	50.4
Thurrock	Tilbury Manor Junior School	260	130	50.2
State funded secondary schools				
Hampshire	Staunton Community Sports College	520	390	75.6
Wandsworth	Southfields Community College	1,380	1,020	74.3
City of Nottingham	Hadden Park High School	650	450	68.2
Salford	Harrop Fold School	700	470	67.2
Leeds	Cockburn College of Arts	1,050	710	67.2
Birmingham	St. Albans C of E Specialist Engineering College	430	290	67.1
Sefton	Litherland High School	750	490	65.0
Liverpool	West Derby School	1,080	700	65.0
Newcastle upon Tyne	All Saints College	850	550	64.8
Kirklees	Batley Girls' High School	1,090	700	64.6
Newham	Brampton Manor School	1,430	910	63.5
Kent	Cheyne Middle School	460	290	62.6
City of Nottingham	Fairham Community College	170	100	61.4
Medway	Temple School	370	220	59.8
Islington	Highbury Grove School	1,020	600	59.1
Kirklees	Fartown High School	400	240	58.9
Lambeth	Stockwell Park School	980	570	58.5
Wandsworth	Chestnut Grove School	870	500	57.8
Torbay	Torquay Community College	800	460	57.3
Bradford	Nab Wood School	910	520	57.0
Greenwich	Eltham Green Specialist Sports College	1,050	600	56.6
Derby	Bemrose School	820	460	56.5
Lancashire	Hornby High School	130	70	56.2
Kent	Hartsdown Technology College	1,080	600	56.1
Wakefield	Featherstone Technology College	620	340	55.9
Southampton	Redbridge Community School	920	520	55.9
Kent	The Mailing School	430	240	55.6
Kent	Northfleet Technology College	910	500	55.6
Manchester	Manchester Academy	870	480	55.4
Waltham Forest	George Mitchell School	590	330	55.2
Kent	Sittingbourne Community College	1,260	690	55.0
Calderdale	The Ridings School	170	90	54.7
Slough	Beechwood School	770	420	54.6
Sheffield	Chaucer Business and Enterprise College	880	480	54.6
Northumberland	Hirst High School	540	300	54.2
Brighton and Hove	Falmer High School	660	350	53.9
Hampshire	Park Community School	880	470	53.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	Phoenix High School	840	450	53.7
City of Nottingham	Haywood School	70	40	53.6
Westminster	Westminster Academy	840	450	53.5

Maintained primary and state funded secondary[1] schools at which more than 50 per cent. of pupils have statemented or non-statemented special educational needs. Year: January 2009. Coverage: England

Local authority name	*School name*	*Headcount of pupils[2]*	*Pupils with special educational needs with or without statements[3]*	
			Number	*Percentage*
Gloucestershire	Bishops' College	510	270	53.4
Southampton	Chamberlayne College for the Arts	680	360	53.2
Poole	Rossmore Community College	550	290	53.1
Norfolk	Charles Burrell Humanities School	660	350	53.0
Southampton	Oasis Academy Lord's Hill	870	460	53.0
Norfolk	The Open Academy	480	250	53.0
Medway	New Brompton College	990	520	52.9
Liverpool	North Liverpool Academy	1,150	610	52.8
Nottinghamshire	The Queen Elizabeth's (1561) Endowed School	1,080	570	52.8
Wokingham	Ryeish Green School	300	160	52.8
Manchester	North Manchester High School for Boys	700	370	52.6
North East Lincolnshire	Oasis Academy Wintringham	750	390	52.6
Birmingham	Yardleys School	900	470	52.6
Kent	The North School	950	500	52.6
West Sussex	Ifield Community College	1,020	530	52.5
Westminster	St. George RC School	600	310	51.9
Redcar and Cleveland	Saint Peter's Catholic College of Maths and Computing	420	220	51.9
Kent	The Wildernesse School	510	260	51.9
Southwark	Harris Academy Bermondsey	880	460	51.9
Kent	New Line Learning Academy	770	400	51.8
West Sussex	Thomas Bennett Community College	1,320	680	51.8
Wakefield	Cathedral C of E (VC) High School	880	450	51.6
Kent	Tunbridge Wells High School	340	170	51.8
Sheffield	Parkwood High School	680	350	50.9
Lambeth	Norwood School	700	360	50.9
Northamptonshire	Weavers School	790	400	50.8
Norfolk	The Hewett School	1,010	510	50.8
Trafford	Stretford High School	710	360	50.8
Haringey	Gladesmore Community School	1,240	630	50.7
Westminster	Paddington Academy	1,130	570	50.6
Newham	Kingsford Community School	1,450	730	50.4

[1] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[2] Pupils with SEN without statements include school action and school action plus.
[3] Excludes dually registered pupils.
Note:
Pupil numbers rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust: Contracts

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what contracts have been awarded by his Department to the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust; what the value is of each contract; and if he will make a statement. [321275]

Mr. Coaker: The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust has successfully bid for a number of contracts advertised by the Department in open competition. Details of live contracts between DCSF and SSAT are as follows.

Programme	*Contract period*	*Total value of contract (£)*
Academies school improvement support	September 2008 to August 2011	13,600,000
Curriculum Policy Delivery	June 2007 to March 2010	7,451,000
Gaining Ground	April 2009 to February 2011	3,572,000
Licence to Cook/Teach Food Technology	April 2009 to March 2011	1,200,000
Teachers International Professional Development	June 2008 to March 2011	3,306,844
Trusts Delivery[1]	September 2007 to August 2010	8,222,991
Work Related Learning Enterprise Policy	October 2008 to March 2010	7,681,514

[1] SSAT bid for this contract as part of a consortium also including the Youth Sport Trust and Foundation and Aided Schools National Foundation

Support for All: The Families and Relationships

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department allocated to deliver and maintain the online eligibility checker for parents as referred to in the Green Paper, Support for All: the Families and Relationships in the last 12 months. [318283]

Dawn Primarolo: The funding for the proposals outlined in "Support for All: the Families and Relationships Green Paper" has been allocated from current budgets.

The online eligibility checker will be taken forward next financial year and consequently no money has been spent on it to date. It is anticipated that the project

will cost in the region of £100,000 and that the funding required will be allocated from the 2010-11 Affordable Childcare Campaign budget.

Sure Start Programme

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start children's centres there are in the City of Wolverhampton. [322258]

Dawn Primarolo: There are 18 designated Sure Start Children's Centres in the Wolverhampton city council local authority area.

Sure Start Programme: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* children and *(b)* families are in receipt of support from Sure Start Children's Centres in York. [322115]

Dawn Primarolo: The 10 designated Sure Start Children's Centres in the City of York local authority area have a combined reach of over 8,400 children under five and their families. Reach area defines those children and families with the opportunity to access children's centres. Figures for the number of children under five and their families actually attending and using children's centres are not collected centrally.

Teachers: Males

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 707W, on teachers: males, if he will provide the figures for each local authority: [318405]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 708W, on teachers: males; how many *(a)* nursery and primary and *(b)* secondary schools with no male teachers there were in each local authority area. [318485]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* The School Census reports that only two local authority maintained secondary schools (one in Bradford local authority and one in Hackney local authority) did not have a male teacher in service in January 2009. Both of these are girls schools with a religious character. The following table provides similar numbers for local authority maintained nursery and primary schools:

Local authority maintained nursery and primary schools in each local authority who do not have a male teacher in service, year: January 2009, coverage: England

Number

	Schools with no male teacher in service		
	Nursery	*Primary*	*Nursery and primary*
England	386	3,840	4,226
Gateshead	1	13	14
Newcastle upon Tyne	6	10	16
North Tyneside	1	9	10
South Tyneside	4	8	12
Sunderland	9	16	25
Hartlepool	1	3	4
Middlesbrough	0	8	8
Redcar and Cleveland	0	8	8
Stockton-on-Tees	0	8	8
Former Durham	n/a	n/a	n/a
Darlington	2	2	4
Durham (post 1 April 1997)	10	65	75
Northumberland	1	71	72
North East	35	221	256
Cumbria	5	99	104
Former Cheshire	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cheshire (post 1 April 1998)	1	55	56
Halton	4	11	15
Warrington	1	9	10
Bolton	4	14	18
Bury	1	2	3
Manchester	2	13	15
Oldham	0	18	18
Rochdale	4	9	13
Salford	0	13	13
Stockport	9	18	27
Tameside	0	12	12
Trafford	0	10	10
Wigan	2	16	18
Former Lancashire	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lancashire (post 1 April 1998)	23	103	126
Blackburn with Darwen	9	6	15

Local authority maintained nursery and primary schools in each local authority who do not have a male teacher in service, year: January 2009, coverage: England

Number

	Schools with no male teacher in service		
	Nursery	*Primary*	*Nursery and primary*
Blackpool	0	1	1
Knowsley	0	6	6
Liverpool	4	22	26
St. Helens	1	6	7
Sefton	4	9	13
Wirral	3	12	15
North West	77	464	541
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	2	7	9
East Riding of Yorkshire	4	41	45
North East Lincolnshire	2	14	16
North Lincolnshire	0	18	18
North Yorkshire	3	89	92
York	1	2	3
Barnsley	0	20	20
Doncaster	0	17	17
Rotherham	1	23	24
Sheffield	1	17	18
Bradford	5	19	24
Calderdale	0	14	14
Kirklees	2	50	52
Leeds	0	29	29
Wakefield	3	34	37
Yorkshire and The Humber	24	394	418
Former Derbyshire	n/a	n/a	n/a
Derbyshire	8	120	128
Derby	8	22	30
Former Leicestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leicestershire (post 1 April 1997)	1	45	46
Leicester	0	13	13
Rutland	0	5	5
Lincolnshire	5	69	74
Northamptonshire	9	64	73
Former Nottinghamshire	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nottinghamshire (post 1 April 1998)	2	70	72
Nottingham	1	17	18
East Midlands	34	425	459
Former Hereford and Worcester	n/a	n/a	n/a
Herefordshire	0	14	14
Worcestershire	1	53	54
Former Shropshire	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shropshire (post 1 April 1998)	0	51	51
Telford and Wrekin	1	17	18
Former Staffordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a
Staffordshire (post 1 April 1998)	5	83	88
Stoke-on-Trent	6	11	17
Warwickshire	7	48	55
Birmingham	20	26	46
Coventry	1	8	9
Dudley	1	6	7
Sandwell	0	12	12
Solihull	0	10	10
Walsall	8	11	19
Wolverhampton	7	10	17
West Midlands	57	360	417
Former Cambridgeshire	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire (post 1 April 1998)	6	60	66
Peterborough	1	6	7
Norfolk	3	110	113

Local authority maintained nursery and primary schools in each local authority who do not have a male teacher in service, year: January 2009, coverage: England

Number

	Schools with no male teacher in service		
	Nursery	*Primary*	*Nursery and primary*
Suffolk	1	99	100
Former Bedfordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire (post 1 April 1997)	7	75	82
Luton	4	13	17
Former Essex	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex (post 1 April 1998)	1	138	139
Southend-on-Sea	0	5	5
Thurrock	0	12	12
Hertfordshire	15	126	141
East of England	38	644	682
London	63	221	284
Camden	1	7	8
City of London	0	0	0
Hackney	2	4	6
Hammersmith and Fulham	2	1	3
Haringey	1	8	9
Islington	0	2	2
Kensington and Chelsea	3	1	4
Lambeth	2	9	11
Lewisham	1	8	9
Newham	5	3	8
Southwark	4	2	6
Tower Hamlets	6	3	9
Wandsworth	3	7	10
Westminster	4	3	7
Inner London	34	58	92
Barking and Dagenham	0	5	5
Barnet	4	15	19
Bexley	0	16	16
Brent	3	4	7
Bromley	0	15	15
Croydon	6	17	23
Ealing	4	7	11
Enfield	0	1	1
Greenwich	4	5	9
Harrow	1	8	9
Havering	0	13	13
Hillingdon	0	10	10
Hounslow	0	7	7
Kingston upon Thames	1	7	8
Merton	0	8	8
Redbridge	0	4	4
Richmond upon Thames	1	7	8
Sutton	2	9	11
Waltham Forest	3	5	8
Outer London	29	163	192
Former Berkshire	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bracknell Forest	0	9	9
Windsor and Maidenhead	4	15	19
West Berkshire	2	26	28
Reading	5	9	14
Slough	4	4	8
Wokingham	1	14	15
Former Buckinghamshire	n/a	n/a	n/a
Buckinghamshire (post 1 April 1997)	1	59	60
Milton Keynes	2	35	37
Former East Sussex	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Sussex (post 1 April 1997)	0	36	36

Local authority maintained nursery and primary schools in each local authority who do not have a male teacher in service, year: January 2009, coverage: England

Number

	Schools with no male teacher in service		
	Nursery	*Primary*	*Nursery and primary*
Brighton and Hove	2	6	8
Former Hampshire	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire (post 1 April 1997)	3	132	135
Portsmouth	1	13	14
Southampton	1	14	15
Isle of Wight	0	15	15
Former Kent	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent (post 1 April 1998)	1	88	89
Medway	0	29	29
Oxfordshire	9	68	77
Surrey	4	127	131
West Sussex	4	53	57
South East	44	752	796
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	0	12	12
Bristol, City of	9	16	25
North Somerset	0	13	13
South Gloucestershire	0	17	17
Cornwall	2	36	38
Former Devon	n/a	n/a	n/a
Devon (post 1 April 1998)	2	52	54
Plymouth	1	4	5
Torbay	0	4	4
Former Dorset	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dorset (post 1 April 1997)	0	29	29
Poole	0	3	3
Bournemouth	0	1	1
Gloucestershire	0	45	45
Somerset	0	65	65
Former Wiltshire	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wiltshire (post 1 April 1997)	0	50	50
Swindon	0	12	12
South West	14	359	373

n/a = not applicable. *Source:* School Census.

Teachers: Personal Social and Health Education

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers of personal, social and health education have specific accreditation in relation to that subject. [300667]

Mr. Coaker: The available information on PSHE teachers and their qualifications comes from an occasional sample survey which collects data on teachers by subject taught and on their post A-level qualifications. The Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey was last carried out in 2007, and found that very few secondary school teachers of PSHE in maintained schools in England held a qualification in the subject (less than 1 per cent.). The survey asks teachers to specify post A-level qualifications (degrees, masters, PGCEs, certificates of education, HNDs, post graduate certificates and diplomas) but does not collect details of teachers Continuing Professional Development or courses that do not result in a formal post A-level qualification.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to allocate funding for the continuous professional development of teachers for the purposes of implementing the proposals in his Department's White Paper, "Your child, your schools, our future". [322833]

Mr. Coaker: Schools already receive funding for continuing professional development for the whole school workforce, included within their delegated budgets. However, it is not ring-fenced because we believe school leaders are best placed to determine how funding should be allocated based on the needs of individual teachers, identified and agreed through the performance management process, and in the context of the school's own development and improvement priorities.

Revenue funding per individual pupil has increased by £2,410 (83 per cent.) in real terms between 1997-98 and 2009-10, and therefore we expect that many schools will have increased their spending on CPD for teachers and other staff to reflect that.

In 2010-11 schools funding will increase by 4.3 per cent. cash per pupil and 2.1 per cent. cash per pupil over 2011-13 at current levels of inflation, after taking account of rising pupil numbers.

Truancy

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils had an attendance record of less than 90 per cent. at schools in England in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [322013]

Mr. Coaker: In 2005/06, the School Census started to collect attendance data at individual pupil level from secondary schools only. This was extended to primary and special schools in 2006/07. The school level information collected before 2005/06 cannot be used to answer this question.

The available information on the absence rates of pupils in primary, secondary and special schools in 2006/07 and 2007/08 is published as follows:

2006/07—Table 3.2.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000775/index.shtml

2007/08—Table 3.2.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000832/index.shtml

For these tables, less than 90 per cent. attendance will equate to more than 10 per cent. absence.

Information for secondary schools only in 2005/06 is shown in the following table:

State-funded secondary schools[1,2,3]: percentage of enrolments by their overall absence rates—2005/06 England

	Secondary schools[1,2]		
	Pupil enrolments in schools during 2005/06[3]		
Overall absence rate:	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Percentage of overall absence[4]*
More than 10%	803,990	26.3	62.6
Total	3,056,330	100.0	100.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[3] Number of pupil enrolments in schools from start of the school year up until 27 May 2006. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school).
[4] The number of sessions missed due to overall absence by pupils with more than 10 per cent. absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of sessions missed due to overall absence.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Overall absence in 2007/08 stood at 6.29 per cent. the lowest on record, having fallen for eight of the last 10 years. On average 70,000 more pupils were in school each day in 2007/08 than would be the case if absence rates were still at the level of 1996/97.

Persistent absence in secondary schools accounts for 27.6 per cent. of all overall absence. Schools and local authorities now have to target 'persistent absentees'. During 2008/09 the Department targeted, through National Strategies, 360 secondary schools, with high levels of persistent absence located within 42 local authorities. Collectively, these 360 schools reduced in 2008/09 their persistently absent pupils by 18 per cent. from the end of spring term 2008 to the end of spring term 2009. This shows our policies are working well and recognises the hard work taking place in schools and local authorities.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 29 March 2010

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many smoking shelters have been built for his Department's staff in the last five years; and at what cost. [324354]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has not built any smoking shelters within the last five years.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324556]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) provides some exercise facilities available for its staff at no cost in London and Belfast. The Department provides these facilities as part of an ongoing commitment to its Workplace Health Improvement Programme.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 837W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign. [321926]

Mr. Woodward: The cost for the redesign of the website was £4,185.94.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of each. [324416]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) is responsible for hosting events, recorded as expenditure under hospitality, which acknowledge the contribution made by a wide range of people to life in Northern Ireland. These include receptions at Hillsborough Castle for representatives from the voluntary, charity and business sectors as well as the police, armed forces and their families (including those returning from active service in Afghanistan), to recognise their contribution to wider society.

The five events hosted by the Northern Ireland Office over the past three years which have incurred the greatest expenditure are shown in the following table.

	Date	*Venue*	*£*	
Annual Royal Garden Party attended by HRH Princess Anne	May 2009	Hillsborough Castle	72,231.64	This event held to acknowledge the contribution made by a wide range of people to life in Northern Ireland. The 2,500 guests included representatives from the voluntary, charity and business sectors as well as the police, armed forces and their families (including those returning from active service in Afghanistan), to recognise their contribution to wider society.
Annual Royal Garden Party attended by HRH Prince of Wales and HRH Duchess of Cornwall	May 2008	Hillsborough Castle	86,996.18	This event held to acknowledge the contribution made by a wide range of people to life in Northern Ireland. The 2,500 guests included representatives from the voluntary, charity and business sectors as well as the police, armed forces and their families (including those returning from active service in Afghanistan), to recognise their contribution to wider society.
Annual Royal Garden Party attended by HRH Prince of Wales and HRH Duchess of Cornwall	May 2007	Hillsborough Castle	73,698.35	This event held to acknowledge the contribution made by a wide range of people to life in Northern Ireland. The 2,500 guests included representatives from the voluntary, charity and business sectors as well as the police, armed forces and their families (including those returning from active service abroad), to recognise their contribution to wider society.
Royal Garden Party attended by Her Majesty The Queen and HRH Duke of Edinburgh	June 2007	University of Ulster, Coleraine	73,902.33	Royal Garden Party held to acknowledge the contribution made specifically by those living in the north and north-west of Northern Ireland. 2,000 guests included representatives from the voluntary, charity and business sectors as well as the police, armed forces and their families.
Royal Garden Party attended by HRH Princess Anne	May 2007	Hillsborough Castle	64,318.58	This event was held to specifically acknowledge the unique contribution made by those working in the Northern Ireland Prison Service throughout the years of conflict in Northern Ireland. The 2,000 guests were drawn from current and former employees of the Northern Ireland Prison Service and their families.

Hotels

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 653W, on hotels, for what reason his Department does not use the Expotel booking service. [324299]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), in conjunction with other public sector organisations in Northern Ireland, has a contract with a travel agent in Northern Ireland which provides a comprehensive travel booking service, including hotel bookings.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many smoking shelters have been built for his Department's staff in the last five years; and at what cost. [324347]

Ann McKechin: No smoking shelters have been built by the Scotland Office in the last five years.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324426]

Ann McKechin: No expenditure has been incurred in the last five years on rooms for staff leisure.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324970]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not currently use voltage optimisers or other equivalent technologies in its premises.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department were in the last three years; and what *(a)* the cost and *(b)* purpose of each was. [324660]

Ann McKechin: The following were the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by the Scotland Office in the last three years:

Event	*Purpose*	*Cost (£)*
Secretary of State's reception for Trooping the Colour, 2008	To enable Scotland Office Ministers and Scottish MPs to engage with a wide range of Scottish stakeholders	6,477
Secretary of State's reception for Trooping the Colour, 2009	To enable Scotland Office Ministers and Scottish MPs to engage with a wide range of Scottish stakeholders	6,311
Reception for media attending the G20 summit of world leaders, 2009	To promote Scotland to the international media attending the G20 summit	5,065
Secretary of State's reception for Trooping the Colour, 2007	To enable Scotland Office Ministers and Scottish MPs to engage with a wide range of Scottish stakeholders	4,605
Lunch for the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 2009	To enable the Moderator to meet with Scottish MPs, Peers and lobby correspondents	4,123

All expenditure was incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Office for National Statistics: Publications

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what arrangements there are for the Office for National Statistics to provide information to his Department for inclusion in Departmental publications; what protocols apply to the use of such information by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [324854]

Ann McKechin: Much of the information presented in Scotland Office publications draws on material published elsewhere, including both PESA, published by HM Treasury, and Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland, published by the Scottish Government, both of which are classified as National Statistics. Some material published in the Scotland Office annual report is derived from data collected for administrative purposes. In keeping with any information in the public domain, no protocols exist for the use of information published by other Departments and classified as National Statistics.

Statistics: Scotland

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he had with the National Statistician on the *(a)* methodology and *(b)* presentation of national statistics in his Department's publication entitled (i) Scotland and Defence, (ii) Expenditure and revenue in Scotland, (iii) Tax and (iv) Scotland and Oil. [324853]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office Background Papers in question all draw on existing National Statistics publications but were not themselves classified as National Statistics. Indeed they simply draw on already existing statistics, such as the Scottish Government's GERS result that Scotland had a fiscal deficit of £11.1 billion in 2007-08. Such analysis clearly underlines how Scotland's economic prosperity is best safeguarded as being at the heart of the UK.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many persons were employed by the BBC in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [324379]

Mr. Bradshaw: According to the BBC annual report and accounts, the number of staff employed by the BBC in each of the last three years is set out in the following table.

	Number
2008-09	22,874
2007-08	23,101
2006-07	23,037

Detailed information on the nature of the roles undertaken by BBC staff is not held by my Department.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent research he has undertaken on public opinion on the BBC and the licence fee as a means of funding it; and if he will make a statement. [324383]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government undertook extensive research on public attitudes to the BBC and the licence fee as part of the Charter review process, which ran from 2003-06. This research was taken into account in determining the current six-year funding settlement, implemented from 1 April 2007.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to allow commercial advertising on BBC channels; what recent representations he has on this issue; what response he gave; and if he will make a statement. [324385]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under the terms of the BBC's Charter and Agreement, the BBC cannot show commercial advertising on its licence fee-funded channels without the express approval of the Secretary of State. I have neither been asked for nor given such approval.

I regularly receive representations on various aspects of the BBC. Whenever the issue of advertising is raised, my response is that I have no intention of amending the current arrangements.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the 2006 Agreement between the Secretary of State and the BBC; what discussions he has had with the BBC since January 2010 on broadcasting standards; what response he received from the BBC; if he will place in the Library a copy of the note taken of each meeting; and if he will make a statement. [324386]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have had no discussions with the BBC on broadcasting standards since January 2010.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he last met the *(a)* Chairman of the BBC Trust and *(b)* Director General of the BBC; what issues were discussed; whether a record of the meeting was kept; and if he will make a statement. [324389]

Mr. Bradshaw: I last met the Chairman of the BBC Trust on 19 October 2009, when we discussed a range of current issues.

I last met the Director-General of the BBC on 8 March 2010 when he provided a brief summary of the BBC's Strategy Review, which had been published on 2 March.

According to standard departmental procedure, all ministerial meetings are recorded.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what account he will take of commitments to ensure *(a)* efficiency savings and *(b)* the prevention of inflation of staff and talent costs at the BBC in determining the future level of the BBC licence fee; and if he will make a statement. [324422]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government will take all relevant matters into consideration in setting the future level of the licence fee.

Under the terms of the BBC Charter and Agreement, it is the responsibility of the BBC Trust to ensure that the BBC delivers financial efficiency and hold the Executive to account for its performance in delivering value for money.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324672]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has not spent anything on interior design in the last five years.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will issue guidance on his Department's policy on the relocation offshore of departmental jobs to companies bidding for contracts let by his Department. [324793]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department does not have a policy on the relocation offshore of departmental jobs to companies bidding for contracts.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many grade 2 civil servants are employed in his Department. [324957]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department employs two grade 2 civil servants.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical enquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by his Department or public bodies for which he is responsible in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was of each. [324380]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested on behalf of my Department can be provided only at disproportionate cost. My Department does not hold this information in relation to public bodies.

Information on the official statistics produced by my Department and its bodies can be found on the DCMS website in the DCMS Official Statistics catalogue at:

http://www.dcms.gov.uk/reference_library/research_and_statistics/4824.aspx

Television: Licensing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many free television licences have been issued to residents of *(a)* Southend, West constituency, *(b)* Essex County Council authority area and *(c)* England and Wales in each year since such licences were introduced. [324376]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department does not hold the information. Free television licences for people aged 75 or over are issued by TV Licensing as agents for the BBC. This is, therefore, a matter for the BBC.

I understand that the BBC does not collate information on licence holders aged 75 or over by constituency, county or nation as this is not necessary for the purposes of licence fee collection.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the television licence fee was in each year since 1990; what plans he has to change the level of the licence fee in each of the next three years; what discussions he has had with the BBC about the licence fee since January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [324381]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the level of the licence fee since 1990 is available on the BBC website at the following web address:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/keyfacts/stories/licencefee.shtml

A six year funding settlement for the BBC was announced by my right hon. Friend the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) in January 2007 and took effect from 1 April 2007. The settlement provided for annual increases in the television licence for the six years of the licence fee period, subject to the making of the necessary regulations setting the licence fee for the coming year.

Under the terms of the settlement, the increase in the licence fee from 1 April 2012 will be between 0 per cent. and 2 per cent., subject to a review nearer the time.

The Government remain committed to the settlement and do not intend to reopen it within the six-year period. This is because of the important principle that maintaining multi-year settlements helps to support the BBC's independence from Government and avoids suggestions of political interference.

I have regular discussions with the BBC on a range of issues.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Elections: Fraud

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many allegations of electoral malpractice have been reported to the Electoral Commission by police in each of the last 10 years. [324546]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that police forces are not obliged to report allegations of electoral malpractice to the Commission. Since 2008, however, the Commission has worked with police forces to establish a mechanism for collating information about cases of alleged electoral malpractice reported to the police.

In 2008, police forces reported 103 cases involving a total of 476 allegations of electoral malpractice in England and Wales; there were no elections in Scotland. In 2009, police forces reported 48 cases involving a total of 107 allegations of electoral malpractice in Great Britain.

The Commission has published its analysis of these cases, including the outcome of investigations and prosecutions where relevant. Copies of its reports for 2008 and 2009 have been placed in the Library.

General Elections

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what timetable the Electoral Commission has set for the publication of its guidance on counting ballots on general election night; and if the Electoral Commission will make it its policy to ensure that counting on general election night is the expected norm. [324724]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that each Returning Officer is individually responsible for making arrangements for the count, and for complying with any provisions which may impact on its timing.

The Commission further informs me that it published draft guidance for Returning Officers on the timing of UK parliamentary election counts on 16 March 2010 and will publish formal guidance when the relevant provisions of the Constitutional Reform and Governance (CRAG) Bill are commenced. The draft guidance is available on the Commission's website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

In its draft guidance the Commission has stressed to Returning Officers that they should be aware of the strength of support among Members of Parliament for overnight counts, although its policy remains that the accuracy of the result and confidence in the election result are of paramount importance.

Political Parties: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1084W, on political parties: finance, what stage the Electoral Commission's research into the operation of the political levy and political fund has reached; and whether the Electoral Commission has met *(a)* the Certification Officer for Great Britain and *(b)* the Northern Ireland Certification Officer in the course of its research. [324626]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that, further to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie) of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1149W, its research was limited to the legislative framework and information on how the political levy and political funds currently operate. The Commission completed this work in 2008.

The Commission further informs me that Commission staff met staff of the Certification Officer for Great Britain in the course of the research but that there were no equivalent meetings with staff of the Certification Officer for Northern Ireland.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Beaches: Standards

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made in increasing the cleanliness of beaches. [324641]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Local authorities have a duty to keep their relevant land, including beaches above the high water mark, clear of litter and refuse. While local authorities monitor cleanliness through the National Indicator 195 (improved street and environmental cleanliness), DEFRA does not ask authorities to specifically report on the cleanliness of their beaches. This makes it difficult to assess whether or not beaches in general are achieving higher levels of cleanliness. Through the Blue Flag Beach Award scheme, administered by DEFRA's delivery partner Keep Britain Tidy, beaches are assessed for litter, amongst other indicators. The latest awards will be announced in May of this year.

Coastal Erosion

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department undertakes surveys of cliff and coastal erosion. [323994]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Surveys of cliff and coastal erosion are undertaken by local authorities. The frequency of surveys is determined by the scale of the risk.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff of each grade are employed by his Department to assist special advisers. [321135]

Dan Norris: The Code of Conduct for Special Advisers states that, in order to enable special advisers to work effectively, departments may allocate permanent civil servants to provide support of a non-political nature. In DEFRA, two members of the Secretary of State's private office assist the special advisers; they are an executive officer and an administrative officer.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to ensure that all households are able to have a weekly domestic refuse collection. [323645]

Dan Norris: The Government believe that local authorities are best placed to make decisions for their own communities, so does not interfere in the waste collection decisions local authorities make.

Electronic Warfare

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of an electromagnetic pulse strike caused *(a)* deliberately and *(b)* through solar activity on the critical infrastructure of his Department. [321759]

Dan Norris: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson) to the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire) on 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1282W.

Floods: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made a recent assessment of the *(a)* likelihood and *(b)* potential effects of surface water flooding in built-up areas in Castle Point constituency; and if he will make a statement. [324588]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has modelled areas susceptible to surface water flooding in Castle Point constituency and elsewhere. The model shows the effects of a single storm with a 1:200 annual chance of occurring, allowing for regional variations in rainfall.

DEFRA carried out an assessment which ranked settlements nationally based on numbers of properties at risk. Castle Point settlements identified were: Canvey Island: 240th (1,700 properties), Benfleet: 316th (1,000), and North Benfleet: 1,411th (100).

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations his Department has received from *(a)* Essex county council and *(b)* Castle Point borough council on the methodology used to allocate funding for the development of surface water management plans. [324589]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department has received no formal representations from Essex county council or Castle Point borough council about the methodology used to allocate £9.7 million funding for the development of surface water management plans (SWMPs) announced in August 2009, or on the allocations for Early Actions bids announced on 19 March 2010.

A formal process was put in place for local authorities to challenge the methodology used to allocate the £9.7 million funding for the development of SWMPs. This was not used by either Essex county council or Castle Point borough council.

Castle Point borough council wrote to the Secretary of State on 16 March 2009 requesting consideration be given to funding a SWMP for Canvey Island and my reply of 14 May 2009 explained the funding arrangements available.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department received bids for funding for early actions to tackle local flood risk from *(a)* Essex county council and *(b)* Castle Point borough council. [324648]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Essex county council did not bid for Early Action flood protection funding.

Castle Point borough council bid for a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP). This was unsuccessful. We received bids totalling in excess of £20 million. Allocation was prioritised on the scale of risk reduction; number of properties within the SWMP; certainty of the risk being managed; and confidence of the proposal delivering by March 2011.

Forests: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps he has taken to protect woodland in the West Midlands. [324277]

Huw Irranca-Davies: All tree felling is administered by the Forestry Commission in accordance with the felling regulations under the Forestry Act 1967 (as amended). Any felling carried out without a licence is an offence, unless it is covered by one of the exemptions specified in the legislation. Under the Forestry Act, the Forestry Commission usually attaches conditions to the felling licence to secure replanting of the area felled.

Other measures to protect woodland, such as tree preservation orders, are available to local authorities in the West Midlands and throughout England.

Landfill

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether local authorities will be fully refunded for costs incurred in complying with the proposed landfill ban under the new burdens principle. [324625]

Dan Norris: A consultation is currently taking place on options to restrict the landfilling of biodegradable and recyclable wastes, including landfill bans. This is a first stage consultation on the principle of introducing such restrictions, and responses from this consultation will inform Government consideration of whether it is desirable, practical and affordable to introduce restrictions.

The consultation is accompanied by an impact assessment which sets out the estimated costs and benefits of any potential landfill restrictions. Should Government conclude they wish to introduce restrictions, the specific proposals would be the subject of a second stage consultation.

Depending on the nature of any proposal the Government may publish in a second stage consultation, the new burdens principle would apply to any policies which increase the cost of providing local authority services and impact solely or disproportionately on local government.

Marine Conservation Zones

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure scientific evidence is taken into account in identifying marine conservation zones under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009; [324272]

(2) what socio-economic criteria will be taken into account in *(a)* the selection of individual sites and *(b)* the design of an ecologically cohesive network of marine conservation zones; [324273]

(3) whether the seven principles of ecological cohesion will be adhered to in the designation of marine conservation zones; [324274]

(4) whether the minimum conservation objectives for marine conservation zones will be a favourable condition used in designating sites of special scientific interest. [324275]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Designations of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), by necessity, must be based on science to identify the case for conserving habitats, flora and fauna in accordance with the provisions set out in the Marine and Coastal Access Act. The Government have established an independent Science Advisory Panel who will advise both the regional projects and Government on the science. In our statement of 11 March to Parliament, the Government set out the seven principles of ecological coherence it will apply. The development of the ecological guidance to be issued by the SNCBs is being informed by research that has been subject to peer review.

It will be the responsibility of the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies, working with four regional stakeholder projects, to set out the rationale in its advice to Government on where to create MCZs and the conservation objectives to be achieved. A key part of this will involve assembling evidence, including scientific and socio-economic data. We consider that the concept of Good Environmental Status—which will be defined through implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive—should guide the minimum level acceptable for MCZ objectives, as far as that is an appropriate measure for a site-based conservation tool. Government expect that scientific uncertainty will be explicitly recognised in that advice. For example, our understanding of the connectivity principle is still evolving and while not unimportant it will be a secondary consideration.

There will be choices to be made, for example between replicate features, or site management measures, or how to support both development and conservation policies. We expect socio-economic considerations to be taken into account at all stages to inform these choices. These considerations will include opportunity costs. The criteria to be applied will be ones that provide confidence that decisions will result in an ecologically coherent network that is well supported, understood and can be managed to contribute to our vision for clean, healthy, safe, productive, and biologically diverse oceans and seas.

Nature Conservation: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps he has taken to protect wildlife in the West Midlands. [324278]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Natural England is the lead delivery body for the Government's strategy to conserve wildlife in England. Examples of Natural England's action in the West Midlands include:

Increasing the total area of the most important sites for nature conservation—Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)—in the region in favourable or recovering condition; this being 20,000 ha or 89.75 per cent. of the total resource in the region.

Getting 63 per cent. of the utilisable agricultural area of the region under an agri-environment agreement through £40 million of annual investment in environmental stewardship and classic schemes, which pay land managers to manage their land in ways that benefits biodiversity, the historic environment and the landscape.

In particular through the Higher Level Stewardship scheme (HLS) bringing over 3,000 ha of existing wildlife habitats into favourable management and creating an additional 450 ha of new habitats across the region, and bringing an additional 800 ha of farmland under specific agreement to provide suitable feeding and breeding habitats for target species of farmland birds.

Ensuring that 2,816 ha (97.3 per cent.) of the region's National Nature Reserves are in favourable or recovering condition.

Providing funding of £186,000 in 2009-10 to regional and local biodiversity partnerships in the West Midlands, and supporting the local Wildlife Trusts and the RSPB on "Wetland Vision. Lapwing Meadows" and other projects, with more than £60,000 of funding in the same year.

Recycling: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps he has taken to encourage recycling in the West Midlands. [324280]

Dan Norris: Local authorities are best placed to make decisions on the waste management strategy for their communities, although the Government strongly encourage recycling through a range of measures. Local authorities are required by law to provide every household with a kerbside collection of at least two materials by December 2010 as part of a strategy to increase recycling.

Through the Waste Resources Action programme (WRAP) we are providing tailored support to local authorities to facilitate and encourage recycling.

Over the last five years, WRAP has provided advice and support to every local authority in the West Midlands. Three authorities (Stratford on Avon, Newcastle under Lyme and Shropshire council) are already signatories to the recently launched Waste Collection Commitment, developed by WRAP and the Local Government Association. This sets out the principles of a good recycling service, one of which is that local authorities should collect as many materials for recycling as possible and then explain clearly what happens to them.

WRAP is working with the Regional Development Agency, Advantage West Midlands, to deliver a £5.4 million programme to increase collections of waste material, develop recycling infrastructure and increase the use of recycled materials. The support will be a mixture of capital funding and business development support.

PRIME MINISTER

Building Resilience

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 2W, on community relations, when the paper was classified; what level of classification it has; what assessment has been made of that classification in the last 12 months; and what the reasons are for its classification. [324578]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave on 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 2W.

Tony Blair

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the memorandum written by David Manning on 30 January 2003 and *(b)* the minutes of the meeting which took place between Tony Blair and President Bush in Crawford, Texas, on 22 February 2003. [323269]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not publish classified documents in the Libraries of the House.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Corruption

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has classified MW Kellogg as a self-reporting company under the SFO's Approach to Dealing with Overseas Corruption issued in July 2009. [324647]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office does not confirm or deny the existence of such classification in any particular case it may be investigating.

Government Departments: Judicial Review

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Solicitor-General with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 1 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 943W, on Government departments: judicial review, in respect of what cases each Department was a first defendant and the judicial review was granted following a substantive hearing between 2007 and 2009. [323694]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The cases where challenges by way of judicial review were upheld against Government Departments following substantive hearings, as set out in the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 1 March 2010, are as follows:

2007

Secretary of State for Defence

Challenge against orders of Secretary of State "stopping up" two footpaths and setting out replacement routes;

Secretary of State for Home Department (SSHD)

Challenge to removal directions set by SSHD;

SSHD

Challenge against decision of SSHD to detain claimant following his release on bail;

Secretary of State for Justice (SSJ)

Challenge to decision to revoke licence and take claimant back into custody;

SSJ

Challenge against effects of Training Centre (Amendment) Rules 2007;

SSJ

Challenge against decision of Governor to handcuff prisoner while attending hospital for treatment;

SSJ

Challenge regarding failure to move prisoner to open prison following Parole Board decision;

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (SSCLG)

Challenge against decision to allow appeals against dismissal of 2 Fire Officers pursuant to the Fire Services (Discipline) Regulations 1985;

SSGLG

Challenge against decision to dismiss an appeal against a determination made under the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme (LABGIS);

SSCLG

Challenge against decision of Defendant to refuse to retrospectively review the claimant's one year grant under the LABGIS;

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (SSTI)

Challenge to decision announced in July 2006 Energy Review Report deciding to support nuclear new build;

SSTI

Challenge to October 2005 decision transposing into domestic law provisions of the Equal Treatment Amending Directive (CB2002/73EC);

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Challenge to Defendant's decision confirming overpayment of income support.

2008

DEFRA

Challenge against approach taken and policy adopted by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to the control of the use of pesticides in crop spraying;

HMCS

Challenge against defendant's decision to issue a warrant of commitment to prison for a term of 1,190 days;

SSHD

Challenge to decision of SSHD not to treat further representations of claimant as a fresh claim pursuant to paragraph 353 of the Immigration Rules;

SSHD

Challenge of decision of SSHD informing claimant that she had no basis to stay in UK following refusal of her application for leave to remain;

SSHD

Challenge to decision of SSHD not to treat further representations of claimant as a fresh claim pursuant to paragraph 353 of the Immigration Rules;

SSHD

Challenge to decision of SSHD to continue to detain the claimant pending ongoing arrangements being made for his removal;

SSHD

Challenge to decision of SSHD not to treat further representations of claimant as a fresh claim pursuant to paragraph 353 of the Immigration Rules;

SSJ

Challenge regarding failure to move prisoner to open prison following Parole Board decision;

SSJ

Challenge by category A prisoner serving life sentence against decision not to re-categorise him to category B;

SSCLG

Challenge against various decisions of Planning Inspector ordering council to pay an interested party's costs of pursuing her planning appeals;

SSCLG

Challenge against decision of Planning Inspector dismissing an application for costs on appeal under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

SSTI

Challenge of decision of Inspector to exclude certain evidence in respect of an application by the National Grid for wayleaves over the land of the claimant.

2009

SSHD

Challenge against decision of SSHD refusing claimant leave to remain in the country;

SSHD

Challenge against decisions of SSHD to: (i) remove the claimant from the country while he still had a valid appeal pending; (ii) to revoke his residence permit; and (iii) to arrest and detain him;

SSHD

Challenge against decision of SSHD refusing claimant leave to remain as a student;

SSJ

Challenge by category A prisoner serving life sentence against decision not to re-categorise him to category B.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 556W, on Equality and Human Rights Commission: industrial disputes, how much was paid out of public funds to settle the dispute in each of the 12 cases. [319749]

Maria Eagle: EHRC is independent and it manages its own affairs; the following is based on information it has provided.

Of the 12 cases concerned two have been settled for a monetary sum. The total amount paid in these cases was £25,000. The other 10 cases were settled without a monetary payment.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 68W, on the Equality and Human Rights Commission, if she will place in the Library a copy of the correspondence *(a)* requesting the use of the Commission's buildings for non-Commission business and *(b)* (i) granting and (ii) revoking such permission. [319741]

Maria Eagle: The EHRC is independent and manages its own affairs. I have placed the correspondence it has provided in the Libraries of both Houses.

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality for what reasons the Equality and Human Rights Commission pays travel and expenses rates to staff based on the rates paid by each of the Commission's predecessor bodies. [323049]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is independent and manages its own affairs; the following is based on information it has provided.

The EHRC has kept in place existing HMRC approved travel and expenses policy based on the legacy commission rates while it is in the process of finalising its new travel expenses policy that would apply to all EHRC staff. The new policy will be part of a suite of human resource policies which are due to be implemented in April 2010.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 41W, on the Equality and Human Rights Commission: databases, what requirements there will be on local authorities to provide information for the Equality Measuring Framework database. [323031]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is independent and manages its own affairs; the following is based on information it has provided.

The Commission advise that no increased burden will fall on local authorities as a result of the Equality Measurement Framework, as all the data for the tool will be taken from existing sources only.

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 41W, on the Equality and Human Rights Commission: databases, if she will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the procurement notice for the Equality Measuring Framework database and *(b)* the full specification for the database. [323032]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is independent and manages its own affairs; the following is based on information it has provided.

A procurement notice for the Equality Measurement Framework is expected to be published in April 2010 and will be made available in due course. The contractor will be asked to specify the structure of the database so it is not possible to provide a full specification at this stage.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what volume of carbon dioxide has been emitted from the UK in each year since 2007, reckoned on the environmental accounts basis. [321276]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what volume of carbon dioxide has been emitted from the UK in each year since 2007, reckoned on an environmental accounts basis. (321276).

I refer to my previous answer in Official Report, Volume 507, column 793 of 16 March 2010 to your question regarding carbon dioxide emissions since 1990 (320331) which details annual UK emissions up to and including 2007. These are the latest available figures on a national accounts basis. The scheduled release date for the 2008 figures, to be published as part of the UK Environmental Accounts, has been pre-announced as Friday 11 June 2010.

Carbon Emissions: Business

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on carbon reporting by large companies; and if he will make a statement. [323768]

Joan Ruddock: This year I have received representations from the Aldersgate Group to introduce regulations requiring the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by large companies as soon as practicable. I have also received ministerial correspondence on this subject from MPs and members of the public. Other Departments have also received representations.

The Government are currently undertaking a review evaluating the contribution which reporting makes to the achievement of the UK's climate change objectives, as required under the Climate Change Act 2008. The review is due to be completed by 1 December 2010. The conclusions of that review will help to inform decisions on whether to make reporting mandatory.

Collaboration Agreements

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1493-4W, on collaboration agreements, on what date the Joint Meeting on Enhanced Collaboration will take place; where the meeting will be held; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of that meeting; and what *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals have been invited to that meeting. [322276]

Mr. Kidney: The UK-India Workshop on Civil Nuclear R&D Collaboration is being hosted by the Energy and Physical Sciences Research Council [EPSRC], with assistance from officials within the FCO, on 22 to 24 March 2010. Whitehall officials from FCO, MOD, DIS, DfID, DECC and BIS have been invited as well as senior figures from India's Department of Atomic Energy [DAE] and Indian industry representatives.

The workshop is being held at the Cumberland Hotel, London. Stephen Elsby, senior sector manager for power at EPSRC, is leading the event.

As this workshop has not been arranged by DECC I am unable to provide details of exact costs incurred or Indian officials attending.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department and its agencies spent on external recruitment consultants in the last year for which figures are available. [315499]

Joan Ruddock: For the financial year 2009-10 the Department has spent a total of £231,385 on external recruitment consultants.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when energy efficient circulator pumps will be labelled Energy Saving Recommended. [324288]

Joan Ruddock: The Department does not have information on when circulator pumps will be labelled Energy Saving Recommended. Responsibility for this issue rests with the Energy Saving Trust.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when energy efficient circulator pumps will be included on the Energy Saving Trust website. [324289]

Joan Ruddock: The Department does not have information on when energy efficient circulator pumps will be included on the website of the Energy Saving Trust. This is a matter for the Energy Saving Trust.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average payback period is for each type of energy efficient technology commercially available, with particular reference to circulator pumps and technologies applicable to non-domestic properties, ranked by their payback period; and if he will make a statement. [324290]

Joan Ruddock: Many of the energy efficiency technologies could be employed in both the domestic and non-domestic arena, so the information on payback periods provided in response to question 1088 may be relevant to some smaller non-domestic applications. However, information on the payback periods in non-domestic properties are much more difficult to determine because of the likely significant variation in scale, cost and use. The Department does not hold this information.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* average internal rate of return and *(b)* cost per kilogram of carbon dioxide not emitted was for each type of energy efficient technology commercially available, in the latest period for which figures are available, with particular reference to circulator pumps and those technologies applicable to non-domestic properties, ranked by their payback period; and if he will make a statement. [324291]

Joan Ruddock: The Department does not hold information on the internal rate of return, as this information would be specific to each company and installed measure.

The private cost per kilogram of carbon dioxide not emitted (avoided) under a CERT regime can be determined for a range of technologies from the information provided in the following tables 1 and 2. The cost can be obtained by dividing the total cost for the measure, shown in table 2, by the relevant carbon dioxide savings shown in table 1 (multiply the figures shown in table 1 by 1,000 to obtain kilograms of carbon dioxide). The Department does not hold this information for circulator pumps.

Table 1: Lifetime CO_2 saving score per measure, in the priority and non-priority groups

	Carbon saving measure	*Lifetime (years)*	*Lifetime CO_2 savings per measure (tCO_2 (lifetime)*	
			PG	*Non-PG*
Insulation	Cavity wall insulation	40	23.74	26.34
	Loft insulation professional (from < 60mm)	40	14.70	18.10
	Loft insulation professional (from > 60mm)	40	4.34	5.34
	Loft insulation (DIY)	40	9.40	11.58
	SWI external	30	62.02	68.83
	SWI internal	30	58.64	65.08
	Insulated wallpaper	30	20.17	22.38
	Tank insulation—top-up	10	1.98	1.98
	Glazing E to C rated	20	1.52	1.72
	Draughtproofing	20	2.32	2.86
Heating	A/B rated boilers (exceptions)	12	3.95	4.47
	Fuel switching	20	74.97	84.94
	Heating controls—upgrade with boiler	12	0.38	0.44
	Heating controls—extra	12	3.09	3.57
	Wood pellet stoves (secondary)	20	11.10	12.58
	Log burning stoves	20	3.99	4.52
	Wood pellet boilers (primary)	20	95.84	108.60
	Solar water heater ($4m^2$)	25	8.14	8.14
	Ground source heat pumps	40	95.97	108.75
	Air source heat pumps	15	42.57	48.23
	Wood chip CHP	30	96.48	107.07
	Community GSHP	40	20.42	22.66
	Community heating to wood chip	30	106.41	118.08
	Replacement of G rated boilers	6	5.44	6.17
Lighting	CFLs—retail	8	0.05	0.05
	Efficient halogens	6.51	0.02	0.02
	LEDs	18	0.14	0.14
Appliances	A rated cold appliances			
	A rated wet appliances			

Table 1: Lifetime CO_2 saving score per measure, in the priority and non-priority groups

	Carbon saving measure	Lifetime (years)	Lifetime CO_2 savings per measure (tCO_2 lifetime) PG	Non-PG
	iDTVs	[1]		
	PC mains panels	5	0.15	0.16
	Energy saving kettles	5	0.04	0.04
	LNBs	7	0.04	0.04
	A++ cold appliances	12	0.58	0.58
	A++ wet appliances	12	0.11	0.11
Microgen	Photovoltaic panels (2.5 kWp)	25	22.78	22.78
	micro Wind (1 kWp, 10 per cent. LF)	10	3.78	3.78
	micro Hydro (0.7 kWp, 50 per cent. LF)	20	26.44	26.44
	Mini-wind 5 kW, 20 per cent. LF	22.5	84.98	84.98
	mCHP (80 per cent. heat, 15 per cent. elec)	15	2.91	3.30
Other	RTDs	15	0.996	0.996
	Advice only	7.5	0.6675	0.6675

[1] No longer eligible

Table 2: Assumed costs of measures

£

	Carbon saving measure	Basic installation cost All	PG	non-PG	Administration cost PG	non-PG	Total cost PG	non-PG
Insulation	Cavity wall insulation	380	356	395	87	71	443	466
	Loft insulation professional (from < 60mm)	286	268	297	70	57	338	355
	Loft insulation professional (from > 60mm)	286	268	297	70	57	338	355
	Loft insulation (DIY)	120	107	128	32	28	138	157
	SWI external	8,500	7,969	8,830	293	225	8,262	9,054
	SWI internal	5,100	4,781	5,298	273	210	5,054	5,508
	Insulated wallpaper	3,700	3,469	3,843	256	198	3,725	4,042
	Tank insulation—top-up	14	14	14	4	3	18	17
	Glazing E to C rated	212	199	220	55	45	253	265
	Draughtproofing	101	94	105	28	24	123	128
Heating	A/B rated boilers (exceptions)	212	209	214	57	44	266	258
	Fuel switching	2,014	1,888	2,092	216	169	2,104	2,261
	Heating controls—upgrade with boiler	90	84	94	26	21	110	115
	Heating controls—extra	148	139	154	40	33	179	188
	Wood pellet stoves (secondary)	1,417	1,399	1,428	192	147	1,592	1,575
	Log burning stoves	1,000	988	1,008	164	125	1,151	1,133
	Wood pellet boilers (primary)	7,200	7,110	7,256	289	220	7,399	7,476
	Solar water heater ($4m^2$)	3,500	3,500	3,500	257	194	3,757	3,694
	Ground source heat pumps	11,360	10,295	12,021	301	231	10,596	12,252
	Air source heat pumps	5,844	5,771	5,889	281	214	6,052	6,103
	Wood chip CHP	9,281	9,165	9,353	298	226	9,463	9,579
	Community GSHP	4,250	4,197	4,283	267	203	4,463	4,486
	Community heating to wood chip	350	346	353	85	65	430	418
	Replacement of G rated boilers	2,500	2,500	2,500	236	179	2,736	2,679
Lighting	CFLs—retail	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.36	0.27	1.46	1.37
	Efficient halogens	2.50	2.50	2.50	0.82	0.62	3.32	3.12
	LEDs	8.00	7.00	8.62	2.29	2.14	9.29	10.76
Appliances	A rated cold appliances	[1]						
	A rated wet appliances	[1]						
	iDTVs	[1]						
	PC mains panels	25	25	25	8	6	33	31

Table 2: Assumed costs of measures

£

	Carbon saving measure	Basic installation cost All	Basic installation cost PG	Basic installation cost non-PG	Administration cost PG	Administration cost non-PG	Total cost PG	Total cost non-PG
	Energy saving kettles	17	17	17	6	4	23	21
	LNBs	10	10	10	3	2	13	12
	A++ cold appliances	100	100	100	30	23	130	123
	A++ wet appliances	100	100	100	30	23	130	123
Microgen	Photovoltaic panels (2.5 kWp)	6,338	6,338	6,338	285	216	6,623	6,553
	Micro wind (1 kWp, 10 per cent. LF)	3,200	3,200	3,200	251	190	3,451	3,390
	Micro hydro (0.7 kWp, 50 per cent. LF)	1,890	1,890	1,890	216	163	2,106	2,053
	Mini-wind 5 kW, 20 per cent. LF	21,000	21,000	21,000	315	239	21,315	21,239
	mCHP (80 per cent. heat, 15 per cent. elec)	600	563	623	119	96	681	719
Other	RTDs	20	20	20	6	5	26	25
	Advice only	35	35	35	11	8	46	43

[1] No longer eligible

This information was extracted from pages 55 and 56 of the impact assessment for the CERT consultation and can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cert_ext/cert_ext.aspx

Fossil Fuel Levy: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the balance of the Scottish Fossil Fuel levy account was on 28 February 2010. [324521]

Mr. Kidney: The balance of the Scottish Fossil Fuel Levy account as at 28 February 2010 was £180 million.

National Grid

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking towards the deployment of a smart grid. [325244]

Mr. Kidney: We published the document "Smarter Grids—The Opportunity" on 2 December 2009.

We are ensuring that the smart meter rollout acts as an enabler to smart grids and are developing potential policy options to ensure the electricity infrastructure can meet future challenges in light of the Energy Market Assessment and the initial findings of the 2050 road map analysis. DECC also issued a press notice on Friday 26 March announcing the winning projects in the smart grids capital grants programme under the Low Carbon Innovation Fund.

National Skills Academy for Nuclear: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to the public purse has been of the establishment of the National Skills Academy for Nuclear to date; and what the Academy's annual operating budget is. [325162]

Mr. Kidney: The cost of running and setting up the National Skills Academy for Nuclear for three years to 31 December 2010 is £6.6 million. Of this, £3.75 million came from the public sector—the Learning and Skills Council.

The annual running cost of the academy in 2010 will be around £1.5 million. Of this, £311,000 will come from the Learning and Skills Council and the rest from employer/provider contributions and other revenue sources.

In line with the Government policy, Skills Academies are required to move to a wholly industry funded model within three years. The National Skills Academy for Nuclear should be self financing by the three year deadline in December 2010.

Nuclear Waste: Waste Management

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will break down by budget line the funds allocated to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for the development of a geological disposal facility for highly radioactive nuclear waste for the financial years 2010-15. [324265]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is responsible for allocating its total funding between its activities. The NDA's budget for its Radioactive Waste Management Directorate for 2010-11 is £19 million. The NDA budget from 2011 onwards has yet to be determined.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding has been *(a)* allocated to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for the development of a geological disposal facility for high level radioactive waste and *(b)* requested by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for the same purpose for the financial years 2010-15. [324266]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* The 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR07) settlement provided the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) with £1.7 billion direct Government funding for 2010-11. Together with its projected commercial income total funding will be around £2.9 billion. The NDA is responsible for allocating funding between its activities and allocated £19 million to its radioactive waste management directorate.

which has responsibility for implementing geological disposal, for 2010-11. The NDA budget from 2011 onwards has yet to be determined.

Personal Carbon Monoxide Alarm

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to require all employees of energy companies who enter domestic properties to carry a personal carbon monoxide alarm. [322247]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have no plans at present to bring forward proposals in this area. The HSE is aware though that an energy supply company has provided its employees with personal carbon monoxide alarms and that they have been sharing their experience with other companies. HSE will continue to encourage this exchange of information on the practicalities of the use of different types of equipment in order to identify best working practices. HSE has also provided support to a scheme where personal carbon monoxide alarms are used by community-based services.

UK-Indonesia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many times the UK-Indonesia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change announced in Poznan in December 2008 has met; what the membership of the working group is; and what the outcomes of the working group have been to date. [324631]

Joan Ruddock: The UK-Indonesia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change had its first meeting in June 2009. The second meeting will be held in July 2010.

The core members of the working group are DECC, DEFRA and the Indonesian Ministry of Environment as the co-signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding. Representatives from other Government Departments and agencies from both the UK and Indonesia participate in meetings as appropriate.

Outcomes of the working group to date include the exchange of information on the EU renewable energy directive; carbon capture and storage; sustainable palm oil; and forestry and land use issues. Under the bilateral agreement between the UK and Indonesia the UK also funded two Indonesian negotiators' attendance at the June 2009 UNFCCC Intersessional and COP 15 in Copenhagen. In March this year we hosted a two-week placement for an Indonesian Government official at DECC and DEFRA.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Advisory Body

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what criteria were used to select hon. Members to serve on the advisory body on the proposed day nursery at 1 Parliament street; which hon. Members were appointed to the advisory body; and if the Commission will publish the advisory body's advice. [324759]

Nick Harvey: The Commission decided in December 2009 that there should be an advisory panel of Members for the nursery project. Mr. Speaker wrote to three Members in February to ask them to serve on the panel. The criteria in asking those Members to serve were that the panel should be small, that each of the three largest parties in the House should be represented, that the panel should otherwise be as representative of the House as a whole as possible, and that panel members should be broadly supportive of the project. The right hon. Member for Ross, Skye and Lochaber (Mr. Kennedy), the hon. Member for Epping Forest (Mrs. Laing) and my hon. Friend the Member for Newport, East (Jessica Morden) agreed to be members of the panel. The panel will convey its views informally to the Commission through the project board rather than in a form suitable for publication.

Members: Email

Mr. Hurd: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 563W, on Members: email, if the House of Commons Commission will take steps to allow hon. Members to list their Public PGP Key on the parliament.uk website by their entry and contact details. [324304]

Nick Harvey: It is more appropriate for Members to list their public PGP keys on their own websites. Members can already choose whether there is a link from the Parliament website to their own sites.

Nurseries

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the estimated gross loss of income to the Refreshment Department is in 2010-11 arising from the closure of its facilities at 1 Parliament street. [324262]

Nick Harvey: It is estimated that the income (i.e. sales excluding VAT) from the facilities being closed in 1 Parliament street would have been approximately £225,000 in 2010-11. However, this reduction in receipts in 1 Parliament street is expected to be offset to a significant extent by an expected increase in receipts in other venues, such as Moncrieff's and the private dining rooms in the Palace. On the basis of historical figures, Bellamy's bar would be expected to make an operating loss in the region of £10,000 in 2010-11, while the Astor Suite would be expected to contribute an operating surplus of some £80,000. These figures, however, do not take into account the costs of accommodation or equipment.

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 170W, on nurseries, on what date the nursery is planned to start operating; and on what date it would have been likely to open if the matter had been referred to the Finance and Services Committee. [324987]

Nick Harvey: It is planned that the nursery will begin operating in September 2010, but the precise date has yet to be determined. It is not possible to give an exact answer to the second part of the hon. Gentleman's question, but the Commission decided to move ahead in order to achieve the opening date in September without further delay.

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what categories of costs will be included in the calculation of the full running cost of the nursery facility at 1 Parliament street, to be recovered from users under the terms of the Commission's decision of 14 December 2009. [324988]

Nick Harvey: This has yet to be finally determined.

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when staff working on the site proposed to be used for a day nursery in 1 Parliament street will be informed about arrangements for their redeployment. [324989]

Nick Harvey: Catering staff working at 1 Parliament street were told by the Director of Catering Services on 16 December 2009 about the Commission's decision to convert Bellamy's Bar, the Club Room and the Astor Suite into a day nursery. Since then affected staff have had one-to-one consultations with managers to discuss options for their redeployment and the trade unions have been kept informed of proposals. Subject to their acceptance of their proposed redeployment, formal letters notifying staff of their new duties will be issued shortly.

Security

Mr. Hurd: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 953W, on security, what the private security firm was; and how much has been paid to that firm. [324340]

Nick Harvey: Detica Ltd. undertook a piece of work, which cost £15,640 inclusive of VAT, in support of the internal inquiry into the unauthorised disclosure of information about Members' allowances.

Speaker's Adviser

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 171W, on the Speaker's adviser, for what reason the financial implications of creating a new post of special adviser to the Speaker were not *(a)* discussed by the House of Commons Commission and *(b)* referred to the Finance and Services Committee. [324985]

Nick Harvey: The question of personal support staff for Mr. Speaker is a matter for him. No additional financial authority was required for the appointment of a special adviser as the costs are being met within existing budgets.

CABINET OFFICE

Cancer

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average *(a)* one-year and *(b)* five-year survival rates for people diagnosed with (i) melanoma, (ii) prostate cancer and (iii) breast cancer has been in each of the last 10 years. [324851]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average (a) one year and (b) five year survival rates for people diagnosed with (i) melanoma, (ii) prostate cancer and (iii) breast cancer has been in each of the last 10 years. [324851]

ONS does not publish site-specific cancer survival figures by single year of diagnosis. For statistical reliability, figures are published for three- to five-year periods, to avoid over-interpretation of random year on year fluctuations.

The latest one- and five-year survival rates available for (i) melanoma, (ii) prostate and (iii) breast cancer are for persons diagnosed in 2001-2006 and followed up to 2007. These figures are presented below (Table 1), with figures for each preceding period back to 1998-2001 with follow-up to 2003.

Table 1: One- and five-year age-standardised[1] relative cancer survival rates (percentage)[2], for melanoma, prostate and breast cancer, adult patients[3], England and Wales[4], and England[5]

Cancer		*One-year relative survival (percentage)*	*Five-year relative survival (percentage)*
Melanoma—men	1998-2001, followed up to 2003, England, Wales	94.2	79.0
	1999-2002, followed up to 2004, England, Wales	94.5	80.5
	1999-2003, followed up to 2004, England, Wales	94.4	80.4
	2000-2004, followed up to 2005, England	94.5	80.6
	2001-2006, followed up to 2007, England	94.9	81.1
Melanoma—women	1998-2001, followed up to 2003, England, Wales	96.6	88.2
	1999-2002, followed up to 2004, England, Wales	96.9	89.4
	1999-2003, followed up to 2004, England, Wales	97.0	89.4
	2000-2004, followed up to 2005, England	97.1	89.5
	2001-2006, followed up to 2007, England	97.3	89.6
Prostate—men	1998-2001, followed up to 2003, England, Wales	89.8	70.8

Table 1: One- and five-year age-standardised[1] relative cancer survival rates (percentage)[2], for melanoma, prostate and breast cancer, adult patients[3], England and Wales[4], and England[5]

Cancer		One-year relative survival (percentage)	Five-year relative survival (percentage)
	1999-2002, followed up to 2004, England, Wales	90.9	74.1
	1999-2003, followed up to 2004, England, Wales	91.2	74.4
	2000-2004, followed up to 2005, England	91.6	75.8
	2001-2006, followed up to 2007, England	92.1	77.0
Breast - women	1998-2001, followed up to 2003, England, Wales	93.7	79.9
	1999-2002, followed up to 2004, England, Wales	94.0	80.7
	1999-2003, followed up to 2004, England, Wales	94.2	81.0
	2000-2004, followed up to 2005, England	94.4	81.1
	2001-2006, followed up to 2007, England	94.9	82.0

[1] As cancer survival varies with the age at diagnosis, the relative rates for all ages (15-99) have been age-standardised to control for changes in the age profile of cancer patients over time, thus making them comparable with previously published figures.
[2] Melanoma is defined by code C43, prostate cancer is defined as C61 and breast cancer is defined as C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth edition (ICD-10).
[3] Adult patients aged 15-99.
[4] Survival rates for patients diagnosed in England and Wales are calculated up to the period 1999-2003 with follow-up to 2004.
[5] Survival rates for patients diagnosed in England are available from 2002-2004, with follow-up to 2005.

Central Office of Information: Advertising

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the estimated monetary value is of the contracts to be used under the Central Office of Information's framework for *(a)* recruitment advertising, *(b)* public notice advertising and *(c)* directories advertising over the lifetime of each framework agreement. [323447]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member. The letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether any guidance has been given to the Central Office of Information on Government advertising in the period at the end of a Parliament and before the issue of writs for a general election; [323581]

(2) what guidance has been issued to the Central Office of Information on Government advertising and marketing in *(a)* the period immediately before a general election and *(b)* during a general election campaign. [324021]

Angela E. Smith: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Office issues guidance on the handling of departmental business during the pre-election period, including on advertising and marketing. Until the announcement of the general election, advertising and marketing will be conducted in line with the "Propriety Guidance" for government communications, a copy of which is in the Library of both Houses. It can also be accessed via:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/government_communication/assets/guidance.pdf

Central Office of Information: Video Recordings

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* title, *(b)* description, *(c)* purpose and *(d)* cost was of each video produced by the Central Office of Information for her Department in the last 12 months. [323449]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member. The letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost to her Department was of advertising to promote Backing Young Britain in the Metro newspaper on 5 March 2010. [323570]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

The cost of Backing Young Britain advertising in the Metro on 5 March was £212,000. The cover wrap ran in 19 cities with a circulation of 1,335,611 and readership of over 3.5 million.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many smoking shelters have been built for her Department's staff in the last five years; and at what cost. [324360]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office built one smoking shelter in the past five years. The cost of the shelter and its installation was £5,500.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department and its agency have spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324432]

Angela E. Smith: Other than planned work to Cabinet Office buildings as a whole, no specific expenditure has been incurred on rooms for staff leisure.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324568]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office does have gym facilities but it is not subsidised. The running costs and equipment are paid for by an external provider through membership subscriptions.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1190W, on departmental computers, how many of the Cabinet Office computer keyboards replaced in the last 12 months were for computers located in Downing street. [323652]

Angela E. Smith: None.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by her Department. [324981]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office has installed voltage optimisation equipment into four buildings on the estate. No other voltage reduction equipment has been installed.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 603W, on departmental freedom of information, what target her Department has set to respond to correspondence *(a)* which makes a request for assistance under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and *(b)* correspondence asking about the status of a freedom of information request which has already been submitted. [322920]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office responds to requests in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the detailed guidance available on the Ministry of Justice's website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/foi-procedural-assistance.htm

Requests must be responded to promptly or in any event not later than 20 working days following receipt. In certain circumstances this 20 working day deadline can be extended.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* BlackBerrys were provided to (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in her Department in 2009; and at what cost to the public purse. [313176]

Tessa Jowell: In 2009, six BlackBerrys were provided to Ministers, and five BlackBerrys were provided to special advisers. One mobile telephone is in use by a Minister. This covers the current ministerial team and special advisers and the ministerial team and special advisers prior to the reshuffle in June 2009.

The cost of these handsets cannot be provided as figures for the 2009-10 financial year will be available only when the Department's resource accounts have been fully audited and laid before Parliament.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 311W, on departmental telephone services, whether contracts were awarded for the provision of services relating to the inquiry line run by the Office of the Third Sector. [324111]

Angela E. Smith: The inquiry line is staffed by Office of the Third Sector staff and no contracts were awarded for the provision of services relating to it.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many agency and temporary staff were employed in each of the last three years. [324367]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1492W, on departmental temporary staff, how much her Department spent in total on temporary and agency staff in each of the last three years. [324368]

Angela E. Smith: Expenditure on temporary and agency staff in each of the last three years was as follows:

	£
2008-09	1,875,000
2007-08	1,720,000
2006-07	3,919,000

Manufacturing Industries

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were employed in manufacturing in each constituency in each year since 1997. [324781]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were employed in manufacturing in each constituency in each year since 1997. (324781)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the Annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Due to small sample sizes, accurate estimates of the number of people employed in the manufacturing sector in each parliamentary constituency are not available.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many manufacturing enterprises there were in each constituency in each year since 1997. [324783]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many manufacturing enterprises there were in each constituency in each year since 1997. [324783]

Annual statistics on business counts are available for 2000 onwards from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table provides parliamentary constituency estimates from 2003 onwards. Prior to this year it would only be possible to collate estimates for all constituencies at disproportionate cost.

A copy of the table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the written ministerial statement of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 73W, on special advisers, what the cost was to the public purse of *(a)* National Insurance contributions and *(b)* other expenditure in respect of special advisers in 2008-09. [322881]

Tessa Jowell: The cost of national insurance contributions and other expenditure in respect of special advisers is not held centrally.

Office for National Statistics

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 18 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1032W, on the Office for National Statistics, with what frequency each of the desks at each location are staffed; and how many full-time equivalent staff are allocated to staff the desks at each location. [324692]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question pursuant to the Answer to the right hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 18 March 2010, Official Report, column 1032W, on the Office for National Statistics, with what frequency each of the desks at each location are staffed; and how many full-time equivalent staff are allocated to staff the desks at each location. (324692)

The size of the International Passenger Survey (IPS) operation at each air, sea and international rail site is determined by the volume of traffic. Therefore, the heavier the volume of traffic, the greater the number of IPS shifts operated. Also the higher the density of passengers passing through a particular site, the larger the team of interviewers required to undertake the work.

The IPS operates at all significant ports of entry/departure in the United Kingdom. At smaller sites, where the operating procedures do not require it, or where conditions do not allow it, desks are not provided.

The attached table shows a list of the number of shifts and typical staffing levels planned for 2010 at sites with desks. A shift is typically either AM or PM although this does vary across sites as does the mode of operation. An AM shift is normally 0600-1400 and a PM shift 1400-2230.

IPS locations with desks—shifts per annum, number of desks and number of staff required

Site	*Shifts per annum*	*Number of desks*	*Total number of staff required per shift*
Heathrow Terminal 1 Arrivals	55	1	7
Heathrow Terminal 1 Departures	91	2	9
Heathrow Terminal 1 Transit Arrivals	100	1	4
Heathrow Terminal 1 Transit Departures	50	1	4
Heathrow Terminal 1 Irish Hub Arrivals	12	0	4
Heathrow Terminal 1 Irish Departures	12	1	4
Heathrow Terminal 3 Arrivals	165	2	10
Heathrow Terminal 3 Departures	228	1	9
Heathrow Terminal 4 Arrivals	92	2	9
Heathrow Terminal 4 Departures	120	2	9
Heathrow Terminal 5 Arrivals	110	2	8
Heathrow Terminal 5 Departures North	147	3	10
Heathrow Terminal 5 Departures South	147	2	7
Heathrow Terminal 5 Transit Arrivals	100	1	4
Heathrow Terminal 5 Transit Departures	50	1	4
Gatwick South Arrivals	55	2	9
Gatwick South Departures	82	1	10
Gatwick North Arrivals	54	1	8
Gatwick North Departures	80	1	10
Manchester Terminal 1 Arrivals	51	1	8
Manchester Terminal 1 Departures	78	1	8
Manchester Terminal 2 Arrivals	84	1	8
Manchester Terminal 2 Departures	92	1	8
Stansted Arrivals	120	1	10
Stansted Departures	140	1	9

Unemployment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of people in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area lived in households with no-one in full-time employment in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [324534]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many and what proportion of people in each (a) constituency and (b) local authority area lived in households with no-one in full-time employment in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. (324534)

The requested information is not available.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office in how many and what proportion of households in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area had no-one in full-time employment in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [324540]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many and what proportion of households no-one was in full-time employment in each (a) constituency and (b) local authority area in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. (324540)

The requested information is not available.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of children in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* constituency were living in a workless household in (i) 1997, (ii) 2005 and (iii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [324541]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many and what proportion of children in each (a) local authority area and (b) constituency were living in a workless household in (i) 1997, (ii) 2005 and (iii) the most recent year for which figures are available. (324541)

Information about children in workless households by (a) constituency and (b) local authority can only be obtained from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. However, due to the specific level of geographic detail you require, there are insufficient numbers in the sample to provide reliable estimates for practicable purposes. This is explained in an article published on the National Statistics website, published in August 2009, titled, "Quality Measures of household labour market indicators". It can be found at the following address:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?ID=2272

The article explains that to provide robust estimates a larger geographical area would be needed and the following web link provides the number and percentage of children in workless households in 2008 for a range of geographic hierarchies across Great Britain:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/WorklessChildren08.xls

Estimates shaded in grey are such that as mentioned they are not reliable for practical purposes.

The Annual Population Survey household datasets are only available for 2004 to 2008, so estimates for 1997 cannot be provided. To provide the same information for 2005 as at the above weblink would involve disproportional cost.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of people in *(a)* each constituency in the East of England and *(b)* the UK were unemployed on the latest date for which figures are available. [324598]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of people in (a) each constituency in the East of England and (b) the UK were unemployed on the latest date for which figures are available (324598).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics in line with International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS). However, due to the small sample size, accurate estimates for parliamentary constituencies in the East of England are not available.

As an alternative, in table 1, we have provided the number and proportion of persons, of working age, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), in February 2010, for each parliamentary constituency in the East of England and the United Kingdom, from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment and unemployment are available from the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number and percentage[1] of people claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in the UK and each parliamentary constituency in the East of England. February 2010

	Number	Percentage
United Kingdom	1,657,041	4.4
Basildon	3,035	5.0
Bedford	3,311	5.3
Billericay	2,386	3.7
Braintree	2,522	3.7
Brentwood and Ongar	1,317	2.6
Broxbourne	2,121	3.7
Bury St. Edmunds	1,563	2.5
Cambridge	1,755	2.3
Castle Point	1,880	3.6
Central Suffolk and North Ipswich	1,456	2.5
Colchester	2,653	3.4
Epping Forest	2,267	3.8
Great Yarmouth	3,866	7.1
Harlow	2,824	5.1
Harwich	3,178	5.7
Hemel Hempstead	2,341	3.9
Hertford and Stortford	1,576	24
Hertsmere	1,867	31
Hitchin and Harpenden	1,360	2.5
Huntingdon	2,030	2.8
Ipswich	3,198	5.5
Luton, North	2,669	4.6
Luton, South	3,684	5.7
Maldon and East Chelmsford	1,603	2.9
Mid-Bedfordshire	1,286	2.0
Mid Norfolk	1,736	2.8
North-East Bedfordshire	1,844	3.0
North-East Cambridgeshire	2,843	4.2
North-East Hertfordshire	1,585	2.7

Table 1: Number and percentage[1] of people claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in the UK and each parliamentary constituency in the East of England, February 2010

	Number	Percentage
North Essex	1,413	2.4
North Norfolk	2,051	3.8
North-West Cambridgeshire	2,624	3.8
North-West Norfolk	2,372	4.1
Norwich, North	2,471	3.9
Norwich, South	3,132	4.7
Peterborough	3,900	6.5
Rayleigh	1,398	2.5
Rochford and Southend, East	3,467	6.0
Saffron Walden	1,503	2.4
South Cambridgeshire	1,120	1.8
South East Cambridgeshire	1,542	2.2
South Norfolk	1,777	2.8
South Suffolk	1,377	2.7
South-West Bedfordshire	2,413	3.9
South-West Hertfordshire	1,412	2.3
South-West Norfolk	2,515	3.5
Southend, West	1,964	4.0
St. Albans	1,382	2.5
Stevenage	2,424	4.2
Suffolk, Coastal	1,432	2.6
Thurrock	3,831	53
Watford	2,292	3.5
Waveney	2,905	4.9
Welwyn Hatfield	2,032	3.1
West Chelmsford	2,110	3.1
West Suffolk	1,999	2.8

[1] Percentage of working age people (men aged 16 to 64, women aged 16 to 59) claiming jobseeker's allowance.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System.

Unemployment: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate she has made of the level of long-term unemployment in North-West Cambridgeshire constituency. [324597]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made of the level of long-term unemployment in North-West Cambridgeshire constituency. (324597)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of long-term unemployment for the North-West Cambridgeshire constituency are unavailable.

As an alternative, we have provided the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), for 12 months or greater, resident in the North-West Cambridgeshire constituency. In February 2010 this was 375.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

DEFENCE

New Aircraft Carriers

9. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the programme for the new aircraft carriers HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales. [324454]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Work on the Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers is now under way in five UK shipyards—Appledore, Rosyth, Govan, Portsmouth and Tyne. Work is due to start at the sixth and final yard, Birkenhead, in the next few months.

In addition, equipment sub-contracts to the value of some £1.2 billion have been placed to date, helping to support local economies across the UK.

Defence Spending

18. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which financial years defence spending decreased in real terms in comparison with the previous year between 1997 and 2009. [324463]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Every spending review since 1997 has awarded Defence a real terms rise over the period it covered and defence spending in cash terms has risen every year since 1997.

Defence spending declined in real terms in 1997-98, 1999-2000, 2004-05 and 2006-07. However, in cash terms defence spending has risen every year since 1997.

These figures include the costs of operations, which vary significantly from year to year, and are funded from the Reserve. The Treasury has met every request for Urgent Operational Requirements for our operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Service Veterans: Mental Health

19. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of long-term mental health support for armed forces veterans. [324464]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge).

NATO

20. **Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects on the future of NATO of his Department's policies on European military co-operation. [324465]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence's policies on European military co-operation are designed to be both supportive of, and supported by, NATO. Greater coherence and effectiveness on the part of the Europeans can only lead to a stronger Alliance.

We will continue to work with our European partners at various levels including: bilaterally; in NATO; in the EU; and in the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe, to ensure that Europe can play its role in ensuring a safe and secure world.

Devonport Naval Base

21. **Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the role of HM Naval Base Devonport in warship maintenance and repair. [324466]

Bill Rammell: On 6 May 2009, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence confirmed that all three naval bases, at Devonport, Portsmouth and on the Clyde, have strong futures and will continue to play a vital role in supporting the Royal Navy. Devonport will retain and enhance its position as the centre of excellence for surface ship and submarine deep maintenance (upkeep) activity. In addition, it will undertake Fleet Time Engineering support for base-ported ships and for visiting sea training vessels.

Afghanistan

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan. [324467]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones).

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have been deployed within field hospitals during Operation Herrick since April 2009; and how many and what proportion were reservist medical personnel. [324584]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers of service personnel deployed to field hospitals is shown in the following table:

Operation Herrick	*Total personnel*	*of which reservists*	*as a percentage*
April to October 2009	136	109	80
October 2009 to April 2010	283	151	53

It should be noted that reservists deploy for periods of three months rather than six months for regular armed forces personnel. As such, the reservists figures look artificially high because they reflect two-three-month deployments rather than one six-month deployment.

Air Space

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions since 2005 foreign military aircraft have entered restricted UK airspace over Na h-Eileanan an Iar without permission; [325037]

(2) what investigation has been conducted by *(a)* the Royal Air Force and *(b)* his Department into Russian aircraft flying into restricted UK airspace over Na h-Eileanan an Iar. [325036]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No Russian or any other foreign military aircraft have ever entered any part of UK sovereign airspace without permission.

All events where quick reaction alert aircraft have been launched are routinely collated and analysed by Defence officials.

The RAF's air defence capability to detect and deter aircraft approaching UK airspace is just one layer of a multi-layered approach that the UK Government take to protect UK and NATO-monitored airspace.

Animal Experiments

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what budgetary provision his Department has made in 2010-11 for the conducting, directly or otherwise, of scientific procedures on animals; and how much was spent on this in 2009-10. [323211]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence funds an overarching scientific research programme which includes specific aspects which incorporate projects that require studies involving the use of animals. These are undertaken at DSTL Porton Down.

The DSTL accounting system does not differentiate the proportion of the budget that is spent solely on animal studies.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many animals of each species were used in scientific procedures *(a)* commissioned directly by his Department and *(b)* otherwise undertaken pursuant to decisions taken by his Department in the latest year for which figures are available. [323213]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 167-68W, to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department has spent on long-term care for severely wounded soldiers in each of the last five years; [321370]

(2) how much his Department has allocated to long-term care of severely wounded soldiers in the next 10 years. [321371]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Members of the armed forces who sustain serious injuries that require long-term care will receive appropriate treatment funded by MOD for as long as they remain in-Service. Funding has been, and will continue to be, made available to match clinical requirements, including surges in casualty numbers. Funding will come from a wide range of sources and budgets across the three services, and comprehensive financial data for the past five years are not readily available.

Those who remain in-service will continue to receive medical treatment through the Defence Medical Services as required. Suitable adaptations will be made to both working and service-provided living accommodation if necessary. Ongoing welfare support is also available from the individual's chain of command, through the defence welfare services, and from service charities.

For those who are medically discharged from the services, their care and its funding then become the responsibility of the NHS. We take steps to enable them to receive the continuing treatment and care that they deserve. In this context, my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Health informed the House on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS, that:

"A package of measures will be put in place across the NHS to support the increased number of service personnel who have received serious injuries such as loss of limb or brain injuries whilst on active service. This will include new arrangements with the MOD for life care planning together with a guarantee that those seriously injured and needing continuing health care will receive ongoing high quality care for life based on an early and comprehensive assessment and regular review of their needs overseen by an NHS case manager".

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 953W, whether a complete set of data on the extent to which armed forces medical personnel are in breach of the single service harmony guidelines is now available. [324585]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Army data have now been collected but analysis of the information is not yet complete.

Armed Forces: Interpreters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military linguists proficient in *(a)* Pashto and *(b)* Dari are employed by his Department; and how many of each have been employed by his Department in each year since 2001. [323676]

Bill Rammell: The information is as follows:

	Pashto		*Dari*	
	Higher level	*Lower level*	*Higher level*	*Lower level*
2001	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0
2003	0	10	0	0
2004	0	10	0	0
2005	0	10	0	0
2006	0	50	0	10
2007	10	140	0	20
2008	30	150	<5	40
2009	40	720	<5	60
2010 (now)	40	[1]1,200	<5	[1]200

[1] Approximately

Employed is interpreted as serving in HM armed forces. The figures above reflect serving personnel with current language skills; account has been taken of personnel who have left HM armed forces with language skills and those who no longer have currency in their language skills.

Higher level training enables trusted translation. Lower level training enables linguists to undertake basic military business in limited scenarios. The majority of the higher level capability requirement is provided by contractors and locally employed civilians. Figures for 2010 are approximate, based on forecast training output for the first three months. The number being trained at the lower level in both languages will increase significantly during 2010. Higher level Pashto and Dari numbers will also increase in 2010 as courses are completed.

Departmental Buildings

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many personnel are based in commercial properties rented by his Department in the West of Scotland; [324295]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of commercial properties rented by his Department in the West of Scotland in the latest period for which figures are available; [324296]

(3) what the locations are of each commercial property rented by his Department in the West of Scotland; [324297]

(4) how many commercial properties his Department rents in the West of Scotland. [324298]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Our records indicate that there are 10 other commercial properties currently being rented in the West of Scotland at the following locations and cost per annum. I also include the current number of defence personnel working at each site where this is known:

Location	*Number of personnel based in location*	*Rent (£)*
Brown Carrick Hill Radio Station	—	7,755
HMS Gannet—Greensite (Prestwick)	103	727,129
Dumbarton Armed Forces Careers Office	4	43,632
Paisley Armed Forces Careers Office	4	18,786
Greenock Armed Forces Careers Office	4	8,400
Glasgow—Cerium Building	86	749,593
Glasgow—Armed Forces Careers Office	18	318,059

Location	Number of personnel based in location	Rent (£)
Glasgow—Army Personnel Centre Store	50	383,305
Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde Air Sq	7	135,125
Glasgow—Met Office Equipment Store	4	12,780

For completeness, the MOD also rents some commercial Substitute Service Family Accommodation for personnel but I have not included details here.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in current prices. [324812]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Veterans (Mr. Jones), on 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 378W, to the hon. Member for Chesterfield (Paul Holmes).

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what such items were. [324721]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Expenditure on promotional items must be necessary, appropriate, cost effective and an admissible charge to public funds.

Departmental Security

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many valid civilian passes granting access to his Department's London buildings have been issued to employees of private defence companies in the last 12 months. [323684]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Records show that in the last 12 months, there were 137 passes issued to employees of companies identified by us as "private defence companies". We have defined "private defence companies" as those we can readily identify as being primarily suppliers of weapon systems or defence materiel to the Department.

These passes only allow access to MOD Head Office (Main Building, Old War Office and St. George's Court) and are issued to individuals who hold appropriate security clearances, have a genuine business need to regularly visit one of these London Offices and have been sponsored by a Head Office Business Unit. Figures are not held centrally for passes issued in respect of other MOD London buildings.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to employees of which private defence companies have civilian passes granting access to his Department's London buildings been issued since 1 January 2008. [323685]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since 1 January 2008, building passes have been issued to employees of the private defence companies as listed. We have defined private defence companies as those we can readily identify as being primarily suppliers of weapon systems or defence materiel to the Department.

Augusta Westland
Babcock
BAE Systems
Boeing Defence UK
Cubic Defence Systems
EADS Defence and Security System
General Dynamics UK
J&S Marine
Lockheed Martin
MBDA Missile Systems
Niteworks
Northrop Grumman
Pearson Engineering
QinetiQ
Raytheon Systems
Roke Manor Research
Smiths Detection
Thales
Vega Group
Vosper Thornycroft

These passes only allow access to Ministry of Defence Head Office (Main Building, Old War Office and St. George's Court) and are issued to individuals who hold appropriate security clearances, have a genuine business need to regularly visit one of these London Offices and have been sponsored by a Head Office Business Unit. Details are not held centrally for passes issued in respect of other MOD London buildings.

Future Rapid Effect System

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his statement of 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 3-4WS, on armed forces equipment, whether the base platform for the Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) is now finalised for all aspects of the FRES programme; whether there will be further opportunities for unsuccessful bidders to bid for later variants; and if he will make a statement. [324287]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Future Rapid Effect System programme has been recast from a single programme into a coherent set of constituent projects namely: the Specialist Vehicles; the Utility Vehicles; and the Manoeuvre Support Vehicles. The Secretary of State's announcement on 22 March 2010 related to the Specialist Vehicle project, for which the MOD intends to use a Common Base Platform as a base vehicle onto which specific sub-systems, such as the 40 mm Cannon, can be integrated to meet the various Specialist Vehicle roles.

The Utility Vehicle and Manoeuvre Support projects are still in their Assessment Phases and the potential options to deliver these capabilities continue to be developed. No decisions have therefore been made regarding the platforms to be used for the Utility Vehicles or Manoeuvre Support Vehicles, or the companies that will provide them.

Gurkhas: Immigration

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which Gurkha welfare organisations the Cross-Departmental Working Group on Gurkha settlement policy has consulted; [324750]

(2) on how many occasions the Cross-Departmental Working Group on Gurkha settlement policy has met; [324751]

(3) who leads the Cross-Departmental Working Group on Gurkha settlement policy. [324752]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Cross-Departmental Working Group was set up following the announcement on 21 May 2009 of the new immigration rules for retired Gurkhas. It has met formally on three occasions, twice in 2009 and once so far this year. The working group is jointly chaired by the Command Secretary, Headquarters Land Forces and the Deputy Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency. The Ministry of Defence leads across Government on Gurkha settlement issues, although most work is conducted multilaterally between Government Departments, local authorities, pressure groups and other agencies.

The working group has consulted with a wide range of welfare organisations in the course of its work, including the main service charities: the Gurkha Welfare Trust; the Royal British Legion; ABF The Soldiers' Charity; the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association; and Veterans Aid. Informal consultations and briefings have also been held with the ex-Gurkha servicemen's organisation in the UK and in Nepal, including: the British Gurkha Welfare Society; the Regimental Associations Nepal; the Gurkha Army Ex-Servicemen's Organisation; the United British Gurkhas Ex-Servicemen's Association Nepal; the Gurkha United Forum; and the Nepal Ex-Servicemen's Association.

Port Agency Service

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what due diligence tests were conducted prior to the award of the contract for Port Agency Service (FLEET/OPS/0020), with particular reference to *(a)* credit checks, *(b)* risk assessment, *(c)* ownership, including related shareholdings and *(d)* transparency of company structures and accounts; and what methodology was used to conduct those tests; [324231]

(2) by what *(a)* method, *(b)* criteria and *(c)* through which Agency the Department assessed the security and associated risk profile of those companies who submitted bids for the contract for Provision of Port Agency Services (FLEET/OPS/0020); and if he will make a statement; [324239]

(3) whether, when awarding the contract for Provision of Port Agency Services (FLEET/OPS/0020), a requirement was stipulated that the contractor would need to demonstrate that their work would not be exposed to advanced notice of ship and submarine movements globally; and if he will make a statement. [324252]

(4) by what method and against what criteria his Department evaluated the tender submissions and related documents in respect of the Provision of Port Agency Services (FLEET/OPS/0020); if he will place in the Library a copy of the documentation setting out the criteria; and if he will make a statement. [324253]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* Prior to award of the contract for Port Agency Services the Department undertook a tendering process with assessment conducted in two stages:

a pre-qualification assessment, utilising a standardised Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) to select from the companies who had expressed an interest, those that would be invited to tender; and

assessment of tenders received against the award criteria set out in the Special Notices and Instructions issued with Invitation to Tender dated 28 January 2008.

A copy of the PQQ and the Special Notices and Instructions will be placed in the Library of the House.

The PQQ sought details on such matters as technical capability, financial standing, ownership and company structures. Technical, financial and security matters were considered before a company was invited to tender for the requirement. This assessment was informed by reference to company specific reports procured from a reputable private sector business information supplier. Companies invited to tender for the contract were taken from a list of "Approved Defence Contractors" and, where necessary, were afforded provisional List-X Status by the Defence Procurement Agency for the purposes of complying with the Security Aspects of the tender bidding process.

The tender assessment was conducted by appropriate Royal Navy, Royal Fleet Auxiliary and civilian subject matter experts. The results of these assessments were collated and considered by a Tender Assessment Panel chaired by a senior commercial officer which recommended the award decision based on the evidence of the assessment.

After the tendering process was complete, an agreement on the detailed handling of sensitive material was reached with the successful bidder, implementing the more general security requirements set out in the contract documents. This agreement recognised that some sensitive information would need to be disclosed to suppliers of services in sufficient time to enable those services to be provided in a timely manner.

Royal Irish Regiment: Reserve Forces

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers who served with the Royal Irish Regiment transferred to Territorial Army units following disbandment of the Home Service battalions. [324108]

Bill Rammell: According to unit records, to date approximately 340 personnel who served with the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service Battalions have transferred or enlisted into Territorial Army units based in Northern Ireland following the Home Service Battalions' disbandment. This estimate does not include two squadrons of the newly formed 32 Signal Regiment (V), as the

records of these squadrons are currently in the process of being transferred to their new units and are currently unavailable for scrutiny.

Submarines

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for the delivery of *(a)* each Astute class and *(b)* Trident successor submarine; what effect the delay in delivery of the former will have on delivery of the latter; and if he will make a statement. [321416]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 25 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 54-55WS. Of the seven planned Astute class submarines, the first four boats have been ordered. Boat one (Astute) is currently undergoing an extensive programme of sea trials while boats two to four (Ambush, Artful, and Audacious) are in various stages of construction. We have decided to proceed with the initial build work on boat five and to order the long lead items for boat six. The delivery timetable for the class is currently being re-baselined.

We are continuing to target an in-service date for the first Trident successor submarine of 2024, as set out in the White Paper 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm6994). The precise delivery schedule will be determined at Main Gate, currently scheduled for 2014.

The Ministry of Defence and industry are evaluating the lessons from the first boats in the Astute programme and will ensure that there is appropriate sequencing between the Astute and successor programmes to ensure that continuous at sea deterrence can be maintained. We do not expect delays in the Astute programme to affect the timetable for the delivery of the Trident successor submarines.

Sweet Concepts

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer by the Cabinet Office Minister of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 156W, on the Central Office of Information: marketing, what the *(a)* type and *(b)* cost was of the promotional food and confectionery purchased from Sweet Concepts Ltd. by the Royal Air Force. [324303]

Mr. Quentin Davies: RAF purchases of food or confectionary via the Central Office of Information contract with Sweet Concepts Ltd., are as follows:

	Product	(£) Cost (excluding VAT)
2008	Mints	650
2009	Mints	800
2009	Aeroplane Shaped Sweets	900
2010	Mints	800

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Corruption

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has commissioned or assessed any internal or external reports on the effectiveness of its work to tackle corruption in Afghanistan. [301940]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is contributing £6 million to the Accountability and Transparency (ACT) project managed by the United Nations Development Programme. ACT provides support to the Afghan anti-corruption watchdog, the High Office of Oversight. The project has been in operation for less than one year and so no formal assessment has yet been completed.

In May 2009, DFID and other partners undertook six "Vulnerabilities to Corruption Assessments", the results of which are available at:

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/AFGHANISTANEXTN/Resources/305984-1237085035526/5919769-1249254211329/VCAsSummaryReportFinalJuly172009.pdf.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to combat corruption in Afghanistan. [301941]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development (DFID) leads the HMG Multi-Agency Task Force (MATF), established as the primary means of ensuring UK anti-corruption work is well co-ordinated internally, with major donors and Afghan and international civil society organisations. Through the MATF, the UK is taking the following actions:

We are providing £6 million to UNDP's Accountability and Transparency Project, making us the largest supporter of the High Office of Oversight (HOO). The UK will work with the HOO and responsible line Ministries on reform of the public procurement system and Government permits, especially for construction.

We are providing mentors to help make the Major Crimes Task Force (MCTF) a transparent and effective 'end to end' judicial process handling cases of kidnap, organised crime and the most serious corruption offences.

We will continue to provide training, mentoring and salary support for prosecutors working within the Anti Corruption Unit of the MCTF and will help establish an Anti Corruption Tribunal.

Reconstruction contracts issued by DFID already contain 'no bribery' clauses that apply equally to all contractors and subcontractors. Our commitment to investigate any international contracted by the UK Government and suspected of corruption remains unchanged.

The London Conference on Afghanistan, in January 2010, provided increased momentum in the fight against corruption. We are working with the international community to support the Afghan Government in delivering its new anti-corruption strategy.

Baltic States: Politics and Government

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in the Baltic and Black Sea areas; what recent reports he has received on the sale by France to Russia of four Mistral helicopter-carrying warships; and if he will make a statement. [323647]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We keep the politico-military balance in the Baltic and Black sea areas under close observation. We have discussed with France her intention to consider the export of Mistral ships to Russia. We are aware of concerns about the sale expressed by some countries in both the Baltic and the Black sea regions. France, like the UK, is bound by the same export control regulations, the EU Criteria, in approving or refusing any defence export. These take into account the impact on regional stability.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of each. [324414]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* This information is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to Questions in the formulation if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997 could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323864]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not recently answered questions about hon. Members' constituencies in this way.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his overseas counterparts the matter of the abuse of domestic workers employed by overseas embassies in the UK. [324638]

Chris Bryant: Yes, we have, we do and we will.

Embassies: Festivals and Special Occasions

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is his Department's policy that British missions overseas should hold celebrations to mark the official birthday of Her Majesty the Queen as a part of their diplomatic and trade promotion activities; and which missions will be holding such an event in 2010. [325001]

Chris Bryant: No records are held centrally of local celebrations of HM the Queen's birthday and the frequency and precise nature of such events is at the discretion of the head of mission.

Iran: Foreign Relations

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of UK relations with Iran; what plans he has for the future of UK-Iran relations; and if he will make a statement. [324642]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: UK-Iran relations are hindered by the Iranian authorities' harassment of our embassy in Tehran and their insistence on blaming the UK for all of Iran's problems. We will continue to seek to engage the Iranian authorities on the many important issues of concern, including Iran's nuclear programme, human rights abuses and restrictions on civil liberties, and Iran's role in the region. We will also continue to press for a satisfactory resolution to the bilateral issues between us, including the arrest of embassy staff in Tehran.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Politics and Government

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the special investigation and prosecution team to report on alleged corruption in the Turks and Caicos Islands. [324882]

Chris Bryant: Investigations by the Special Investigation and Prosecution Team are ongoing and it is not possible to estimate how long these, and any subsequent prosecutions, would take.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UN Security Council has been briefed on the human rights situation in occupied Western Sahara by the UN Secretary-General's special envoy on Western Sahara in 2010. [324140]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Western Sahara regularly briefs the Security Council on developments in the conflict of Western Sahara, including the human rights situation. The current Personal Envoy, Ambassador Christopher Ross, last briefed the Security Council on 18 February. Ambassador Ross holds regular discussions with members of the Security Council on a range of issues related to the conflict.

The Secretary-General will submit his report on the latest developments in Western Sahara to the Security Council in advance of the renewal of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) mandate at the end of April.

World War Two: Genocide

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the policy of the government of Germany on release of files on *(a)* Nazi war criminals and *(b)* Adolf Eichmann; and if he will make a statement. [324378]

Chris Bryant: The case to which my hon. Friend refers is currently being considered by the German Federal Administrative Court; it is therefore a matter for the Court and the German Government.

JUSTICE

British Constitution

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 624W, on democratic reform, on what date the National Deliberative Event was held; who attended the event; which firms were contracted to organise the event; and at what cost to the public purse. [323650]

Mr. Wills: The National Deliberative Event was held on Saturday 20 February 2010. An independent report by TNS-BMRB on the programme of engagement will be published shortly and shows that such deliberative approaches were valued by what were demographically representative groups of participants as a means of building public views into policy making. It shows there is a clear appetite to take further these aspects of the debate on constitutional reform: stating the values that bind us together as a nation, building on the existing protections for individual rights and clarifying our responsibilities.

The following persons attended the event:

110 members of the public (selected statistically to reflect the makeup of the population of the UK) who attended previous deliberative events in October and November 2009.

Myself.

Five officials from the Ministry of Justice and one from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The contracts for these events were awarded to TNS-BMRB, a social research organisation, who developed and delivered the recruitment and research elements of the programme (including chairing the events), and M-is, an events agency, who organised the practical arrangements for the events, including venue hire and participants travel and accommodation.

There were eight deliberative events in total between October 2009 and February 2010: five regional events, two reconvened events and one national event. The total cost for all eight events is £842,111.35. The Government do not hold information on the disaggregated costs for the National Deliberative event as individual costings for each of the eight events were not stipulated in the contractual arrangements.

A copy of the independent report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses in due course.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 624W, on democratic reform, what the cost to the public purse was of the five deliberative events; which companies were contracted to organise the events and to conduct the opinion research; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the findings of the opinion research conducted. [323651]

Mr. Wills: There were eight deliberative events between October 2009 and February 2010: five regional events, two reconvened events and one national event. An independent report by TNS-BMRB on the programme of engagement will be published shortly and shows that such deliberative approaches were valued by what were demographically representative groups of participants as a means of building public views into policy making. It shows there is a clear appetite to take further these aspects of the debate on constitutional reform: stating the values that bind us together as a nation, building on the existing protections for individual rights and clarifying our responsibilities.

The total cost for all eight events is £842,111.35. The Government do not hold information on the disaggregated costs for the five regional events as individual costings for each of the events were not stipulated in the contractual arrangements.

The contracts for these events were awarded to TNS-BMRB, a social research organisation, who developed and delivered the recruitment and research elements of the programme (including chairing the events), and M-is, an events company, who organised the practical arrangements for the events including venue hire and participants travel and accommodation.

A copy of the independent report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses in due course.

Courts: Aberystwyth

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on the development of a new court building in Aberystwyth. [324348]

Bridget Prentice: The HMCS Asset Management Committee approved the Aberystwyth court building scheme to proceed to Full Business Case on 24 March 2010. It is hoped that a further announcement will be made in summer 2010.

Custodial Treatment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse was of detaining *(a)* an adult and *(b)* a person under the age of 21 years old in custody for a year on the latest date for which figures are available. [323745]

Maria Eagle: For 2008-09, for prison establishments managed by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), the average cost per prisoner in an "adult" prison (for this purpose adult is over 21 years) was £39,600 and in a young offender institution was £53,400.

The above average costs comprise the expenditure on public and private prisons (as recorded in the NOMS agency annual report and accounts), increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by NOMS. This involves some estimation. In addition, expenditure met centrally by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) is included. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. Health and Education). The prisoner escort service costs are included. Where the costs of young people are recharged by NOMS to the YJB, expenditure is shown gross and not reduced by income from the YJB. Where a site includes adults and prisoners under 21, costs are allocated to the major use.

Secure training centres and secure children's homes, the responsibility of the YJB, also fall into the under 21 years category. The YJB calculates annual figures for the cost of places in each type of establishment in the under-18 secure estate. As at 1 April 2009, these were as follows:

	Average annual cost per place (£)
Secure children's home	215,000
Secure training centre	160,000

Note:
VAT is not included in these figures

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many smoking shelters have been built for his Department's staff in the last five years; and at what cost. [324353]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice's buildings are smoke free. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has not constructed any smoking shelters on its London HQ building estate in the last five years.

Smoking shelters do exist within the Ministry of Justice's specialist estate. However central records of the construction of smoking shelters across the MOJ estate are not held and could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322080]

Mr. Straw: With the exception of HM Prison Service, details of individual cases of lost and stolen property are held at a local level across the Department. Occurrences of theft or loss are reportable to the central security team and amount to 354 incidents during the period 1 January to 31 December 2009.

To determine whether these occurrences relate to theft or loss and to estimate a replacement cost would involve a review of individual local records which would incur disproportionate cost.

Separate records are kept by Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS), which is part of the National Offender Management Service agency. For the 12 month period 1 January to 31 December 2009 the value of lost or stolen property was £310,078. This comprises:

lost or stolen items: 1,178 instances at a total value of £194,609 of which 1,177 instances were for losses of stores at a value of £194,549;

loss of personal property for which compensation was paid to prisoners, staff or third parties: 1,982 payments at a total value of £123,468.

These figures are currently unaudited. A full stock count will be undertaken at the end of the financial year 31 March 2010.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323468]

Mr. Straw: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Once the general election is announced, the expectation is that reports which have not been pre-announced and are not yet ready for publication will be delayed until after the purdah period. This includes Ministry of Justice social research reports which are not routinely pre-announced.

I also refer the right hon. Member to the statement released by the Ministry of Justice's chief statistician on 19 March 2010 regarding the release of youth justice statistics. A copy of the statement is available at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/youth-justice-statistics.htm

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many grade 2 civil servants are employed in his Department. [324958]

Mr. Wills: There are 74,000 full-time equivalent members of staff in the Ministry of Justice, of which 10 are grade 2 (SCS Payband 3) senior civil servants.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 331-32W, on departmental telephone services, whether contracts were awarded for the provision of services relating to the helplines. [324114]

Bridget Prentice: Of the helplines listed in my earlier answer, contracts have been awarded in respect of the following services: the Community Legal Advice helpline, Criminal Defence Service Direct, the Duty Solicitor Call Centre, the National Mediation Helpline, the Family Mediation Helpline and the Nacro Resettlement Plus helpline.

Departmental Translation Service

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on translation services in the justice system in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [324421]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice was formed on 9 May 2007. Information is available for two complete financial years, 2007-08 and 2008-09. Data for 2009-10 will be available in summer when annual accounts have been prepared and audited.

Expenditure on translation services in Ribble Valley and Lancashire by the Department and its agencies

There has been no expenditure recorded within Ribble Valley and Lancashire by HM Courts Service. Information for other parts of the Department is not recorded on a regional basis and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on translation services in England by the Department and its agencies

HM Courts Service and the Tribunals Service are able to isolate expenditure in England which is as follows:

£000

	2007-08	2008-09
HM Courts Service (HMCS)[1]	10	27
Tribunals Service	39	53

[1] This figures represents expenditure by Crown courts only as no central records are maintained that breakdown expenditure by magistrates courts.

Other parts of the Department do not maintain records in a way that would enable expenditure in England to be separately identified from expenditure in Wales or Scotland. Total expenditure is shown as follows and will include the cost of translating documents under the Welsh language scheme.

£000

	2007-08	2008-09
Ministry of Justice HQ	273	388
National Offenders Management Service—interpretation and translation[1]	868	966
Office of the Public Guardian[2]	25	25

[1] This figure includes translation costs as well as interpretation costs. The amounts are not separately recorded and can be disaggregated only at disproportionate cost. Additionally, the NOMS figure excludes expenditure by the National Probation Service which is held locally by 42 probation boards and trusts who use separate and different accounting systems. Information could be determined only at disproportionate cost through examination of local records.
[2] Figures for the Office of Public Guardian are an estimate of the translation component within a wider category of expenditure.

Interpretation and translation services are provided on the basis of need. Costs are kept to a minimum and, when translation and interpretation services are taken together across all territories served by the Ministry of Justice, expenditure has not risen in recent years.

EC Action: Children

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the 1996 Hague Convention on the Protection of Children is ratified by all EU member states before 5 June 2010 in accordance with Council Decision 2008/431/EC of 5 June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [324640]

Bridget Prentice: Eight EU member states are already Contracting States to the Convention. Council Decision 2008/431/EC authorised the UK and other remaining EU member states to ratify or accede to the convention, and requires the simultaneous deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession, if possible before 5 June 2010.

In November 2009 the UK expected to conclude its legislative process by June 2010. Under the convention this would have enabled implementation three months later, on 1 October 2010.

However, it will not now be possible for the UK to complete its implementing legislation as intended in June 2010. The intention now is to have all necessary legislation in place to enable the UK to ratify by 16 July 2010 after the general election. Implementation would then follow on 1 November. Whether ratification can take place then is, however, dependent on the position of the remaining EU member states. The Council Secretariat has called for an update from member states for discussion at the May General Questions meeting of the Council's Committee on Civil Law Matters.

The UK remains firmly committed to ratification and implementation of this important convention and is working to achieve this.

Electoral Register: Freedom of Information

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons electoral registration officers are not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [324178]

Mr. Wills: The generally held view is that the office of Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is distinct from the local authority that appoints them, and that EROs are therefore not currently within scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

In order to come within the scope of the FOI Act, EROs would need to be designated by a section 5 Order under that Act or through an amendment to the primary legislation.

The Government conducted a public consultation between 25 October 2007 and 1 February 2008 to seek views on which bodies might be included within the scope of the FOI Act by way of a section 5 Order. This would be the first such order made under the FOI Act. Electoral Registration Officers were not identified as part of this consultation, or in the responses, as candidates for inclusion.

The list of bodies proposed for inclusion in this first section 5 Order is:

Academy schools
Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)
Financial Ombudsman Service
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

However, the Government made clear in their response to the consultation, published on 16 July 2009, that the first section 5 Order would be an initial step, and that the extension of the FOI Act would be kept under review. I have asked my officials to undertake further work to examine the potential for the FOI Act to be extended to EROs, and to consult the relevant parties on this issue.

Electoral Register: Houseboats

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to ensure that residents of boats without a postcoded address are able to register to vote without having to declare themselves homeless. [324159]

Mr. Wills: If a boat, houseboat or other residence has a permanent mooring it is treated by registration officers as a permanent dwelling in which an elector may be resident for registration purposes, and residents can be registered as electors in the standard way.

If the boat or other residence does not have a permanent mooring, then it is open to the resident(s) to make a 'Declaration of Local Connection' for the purposes of registering to vote. The residents should register at a place where they spend the most time or where they have some connection, such as the area where they were last permanently registered or any boatyard they may use for maintenance.

The provisions are designed to support participation in the electoral process by recognising that there will be some individuals who are unable to supply a fixed address, but are nonetheless eligible to register and vote. Electors registered by means of a local connection may vote using the same methods as ordinary electors. We have no current plans to amend the relevant legislation.

The Electoral Commission has published guidance for electoral registration officers on these provisions.

Employment Tribunals Service: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people living in City of York *(a)* in total and *(b)* with less than two years employment won unfair dismissal claims in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available; and how much on average was paid out in such claims in each such year. [324216]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is either no longer held, or is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In relation to information on cases in 1997, while the Tribunals Service continues to hold certain statistical data, it is not possible to interrogate those data on the basis of, for example, residency of one or more of the parties involved. The case details held in local employment tribunal offices are anonymised and archived one year after the disposal of the proceedings.

In relation to cases involving employees with less than two years employment, that information is only recorded on individual employment tribunal claim forms. Those forms are kept in hard copy in each local office and information is not entered onto IT systems. Therefore, it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In relation to the most recent data concerning unfair dismissal judgments, data are not held centrally in respect of where individual claimants live.

The allocation of claims to all Employment Tribunal office is determined by the postcode of the respondent against whom the claim has been brought. Employment tribunal claims brought by people living in the City of York may, therefore, depending on the business address of the respondent, be made in any Employment Tribunal office in England, Wales or Scotland. Therefore, it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, information was sought from the two offices which deal with employment tribunal cases with respondents (i.e. employers) based in York (Leeds and Newcastle).

Those data have been interrogated to identify the number of successful unfair dismissal awards brought against respondents with a work address with a YO postcode. This shows that in the period 23 March 2009 to 22 March 2010, 35 successful unfair dismissal claims were brought against respondents whose postcode began with YO. The average award was £4,832.51.

Fines: Non-Payment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people served a custodial sentence for the non-payment of fines in England and Wales in each financial year since April 2005. [323903]

Maria Eagle: Figures showing the numbers of prisoners received into all prison establishments in England and Wales in the financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08 (the latest year for which data are available) are shown in the following table:

Fine defaulter first receptions into prison establishments in England and Wales 2005-08

Financial year	*Number*
2005-06	1,994
2006-07	1,605
2007-08	1,433

First receptions are an estimate of the number of prisoners entering the Criminal Justice System by individual offence in a given time period.

Offenders may be committed to prison for fine default: their sentence remains a fine.

Imprisonment for non-payment of a financial penalty remains the ultimate sanction for the most wilful defaulters. However, only after the court has considered or tried all other methods of enforcing payment of the sum and it appears to the court that they are inappropriate or unsuccessful. The court must also be convinced that the person has either "wilfully refused" to pay or have been "culpably neglectful" which means the person has had the means to pay but have simply neglected to pay.

These figures are a sub-set of first reception data in the first line of table 6.1 in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008, adjusted from a calendar year to a financial year basis. They have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

General Elections

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1246W, on general elections, whether any local authority which counted votes on the evening of the 2005 general election was not refunded for the full staff costs of counting on that evening. [324842]

Mr. Wills: The Representation of the People Act 1983 provides that the Secretary of State will pay the reasonable costs of returning officers for the conduct of elections—including for the count—as long as they are necessary for the efficient and effective conduct of the poll. Where a claim for costs in relation to any aspect of the conduct of the poll does not satisfy this statutory test then it

would not be met. Information about whether this happened in respect of the costs of the count process specifically in relation to any of the 569 claims from returning officers in England and Wales in 2005 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. I am not aware, however, that any returning officer was provided with insufficient funding for the count at the 2005 general election.

Human Trafficking: Confiscation Orders

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many confiscation orders there were against convicted traffickers between 1 April 2009 and 31 January 2010; and what estimate he has made of the likely level of savings to the public purse as a result. [324637]

Claire Ward: The available information is provided in the following table. The figures shown in the table relate solely to cases recorded on the Ministry of Justice courts proceedings database where an offence of Human trafficking or Drug trafficking was the principal offence for which the offender was sentenced and where the confiscation order was made at the point of sentence. It is possible that a confiscation order will be made in a separate court appearance following sentence. These cases are not included in this answer so it is possible the true number of confiscation orders is higher than presented here.

Data for 2008 have been provided as data for 2009 and 2010 are not yet available. Sentencing data for 2009 will be published later this year.

No estimates of likely levels of savings to the public purse relating specifically to confiscation orders for trafficking are known to have been calculated by the Ministry of Justice.

50 per cent. of money recovered is given back to the operational bodies to drive up asset recovery work. 50 per cent. is retained by the Home Office for core funding including the Regional Assets Recovery Team. This money represents an addition to budgets rather than a saving and is important in providing extra resources to take proceeds off the criminals.

Confiscation orders issued for drug[1] or people trafficking[2], 2008

	Drug trafficking	*People trafficking*
Total confiscation orders (number)	[3]1,486	0
Amount confiscated (£)	[3]20,529,373	n/a

n/a = not applicable

[1] This includes drug offences relating to importation and exportation, supply, production and other relevant drug offences. These figures have been taken from table 4.10 of Sentencing Statistics 2008.

[2] Trafficking into the UK for sexual exploitation
Trafficking within the UK for sexual exploitation
Trafficking out of the UK for sexual exploitation
Trafficking people Into the UK for the purpose of exploitation
Trafficking people within the UK for the purpose of exploitation
Trafficking people out of the UK

Note:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
3. Sentencing data are usually based on the principal offence and the primary disposal for that offence. A confiscation order is an ancillary disposal usually given alongside the main sentence, these results show the number and amount for confiscation orders given as any one of four disposals recorded against a principal offence of trafficking.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons are employed at the National Offender Management Service *(a)* head office and *(b)* regional offices; how many such employees have (i) a probation background and (ii) a prison background; and how many such employees are career civil servants. [323753]

Maria Eagle: The prison and probation services operate within the framework of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Agency. For historical reasons the two services have different employment structures. Prison Service staff are civil servants and are directly employed by the NOMS agency. Probation service staff are not civil servants and are employed by a probation board or trust.

Information on the career histories of National Offender Management Service headquarters (NOMS) staff does not include national probation service (NPS) experience. It is therefore not possible to provide figures of how many NOMS headquarters staff have a NPS background. Career history information that is available shows that 1,776 NOMS headquarters staff have previous experience in Prison Service establishments and are considered to have a prison background, although not all would have worked with offenders.

All NOMS headquarters staff other than those seconded from the NPS are civil servants. On 31 December 2009 there were 4,375 directly employed civil servants in national and regional offices and the shared service centre.

Newspaper Licensing Agency

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have paid to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each year to date. [323966]

Mr. Wills: The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 gives the creators of literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works the right to control the ways in which their material may be used.

Under this Act, the Newspaper Licensing Agency provides businesses and other organisations with permission to share and copy newspaper content through the sale of a licence.

The level of licence fee payable to the Newspapers Licensing Agency comprises a basic fee payable by all users and a variable element that depends on the size of the organisation, determined by the number of staff employed or by turnover, and the number of titles to which access is required.

The Ministry of Justice is a major department of state that receives a high level of press coverage. It is essential that press coverage of the Department and the wider criminal justice arena is monitored and disseminated on a daily basis.

The Department

The central Communications directorate within the Ministry of Justice's headquarters is responsible for most communications across the Ministry of Justice group, including its agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

Judicial communications are managed by a separate Judicial Communications Office (JCO). Expenditure with the Newspaper Licensing Agency since the Department was established in May 2007 by the central Communications directorate and JCO is as follows:

	£000
2007-08	23
2008-09	84
2009-10 (to 28 February 2010)	128

Licences are paid in advance and adjusted in arrears where actual staff or turnover would have led to a different licence fee being due. The 2007-08 fee was based on the staffing levels within the smaller predecessor Department, the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

From September 2009, the Department awarded a new contract for "media cuts" which included access to digital cuts for the first time. As a result of this, the Department's licence with the Newspaper Licensing Agency was extended to include digital licence fees. For 2009-10 these additional costs were £44,289.05 and covered the period from mid-September to the end of the financial year. The use of digital media allows far more staff to access information and helps reduce paper.

Agencies

The Ministry of Justice has four executive agencies: Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS), the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), the Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian. Only HMCS and the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) have incurred expenditure with the Newspaper Licensing Agency.

	£000	
	HMCS	OPG
2007-08	6	2
2008-09	6	2
2009-10 (to 28 February 2010)	2	2

Offenders: Sentencing

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many pre-sentencing reports were requested in relation to offences of *(a)* false documentation, *(b)* assisting in the running of a brothel, *(c)* soliciting or loitering and *(d)* cannabis cultivation between 1 April 2009 and 31 January 2010. [324636]

Claire Ward: Figures showing the numbers of pre-sentence reports that were issued in the period between 1 April 2009 and 30 September 2009, the latest date for which figures have been published for the offences indicated, are as follows:

	Number
Forging vehicle or driving documents	49
Keeping brothel	13
Loitering/soliciting	7
Procuration	14
Soliciting woman from motor vehicle	1
Supply Class B drug	490
All other offences	115,636
All	116,210

These are a reworking of figures available at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/probation quarterly.htm

Information on cannabis cultivation is not held separately; only offences involving driver and vehicle documentation are included.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Pay

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the written ministerial statement of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 40WS, on emoluments, when he made the statement on emoluments. [323687]

Mr. Straw: No statement on emoluments has yet been made.

Pleural Plaques

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the written ministerial statement of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 79-83WS, on pleural plaques, when he expects to announce the full details of the Pleural Plaques Former Claimants' Payment Scheme; who will be eligible for such payments; how the scheme will be operated; on what date he expects the scheme to be operational; and if he will make a statement. [324846]

Bridget Prentice: Detailed arrangements for the extra-statutory payment scheme on pleural plaques are in the process of being finalised and will be announced in due course. In the meantime, a helpline has been set up to provide information and advice for people inquiring as to whether they qualify for a payment under this scheme. The helpline number is 020 3334 3334.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are serving a sentence of less than *(a)* one year, *(b)* two years and *(c)* four years for (i) homicide, (ii) rape, (iii) attempted rape and (iv) a sexual offence involving children. [323061]

Mr. Straw: The following table gives figures as at 30 June 2009, the latest date of publication for which these figures are available, showing the determinate sentence length bands requested for the total number of prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales serving sentences for (i) murder, conspiracy to murder, manslaughter and (ii) rape. Separate figures are not available for attempted rape.

Number of prisoners serving less than four years for specific offences

Sentence length	*Murder*	*Conspire, aid, and incite to murder*	*Manslaughter*	*Causing death by reckless driving*	*Rape*	*Gross indecency, indecent assault of a child*
Less than one year	0	0	0	2	21	5
1 to less than 2 years	0	0	7	26	13	34
2 to less than 4 years	0	3	62	104	104	165

The table also shows number of prisoners serving determinate sentences for (iv) gross indecency with children. However, it is not possible to give a comprehensive total of sexual offence cases which involve offences against children, as other categories of offences do not define the age of the victim. To answer this part of the question comprehensively would involve a manual search of all the relevant prison records, at disproportionate cost.

The courts must impose a mandatory life sentence on any individual convicted of murder. This is the only sentence available for such a conviction.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoner Escapes

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners at HM Prison Ford *(a)* escaped, *(b)* absconded and *(c)* failed to return in each month since 1 January 2007; what category of offences had been committed by each of those prisoners; what the term of custodial sentence was of each; on what date each (i) left and (ii) was returned to prison; and what sanction was imposed on each. [324591]

Maria Eagle: The tables show the numbers of prisoners, by month and by index offence, who have absconded from, or failed to return to Ford prison between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2009. No prisoner has been classified as escaping from Ford over this time period.

Prisoners who escape or fail to return from temporary release are usually re-captured quickly and returned to a closed prison. Currently 96 per cent. of all prisoners who abscond are returned to custody. Both types of unlawful absence from the prison are criminal offences and prisons, police and the Crown Prosecution Service work together to pursue such crimes through the courts where this is appropriate. Alternatively, the prisoner may be dealt with by way of internal adjudication and may receive additional days in prison as a result of this. Details of the sanctions imposed are not held centrally and could only be obtained by identifying and contacting each closed prison where a former prisoner from Ford had been returned; this would incur disproportionate cost.

While details of the terms of custodial sentence are held centrally this could only be provided by accessing each record manually which would incur disproportionate cost.

Absconds and temporary release failures have been very successfully reduced year on year. Last year, to 31 March 2009, was the lowest level of absconds since central records began. The current year, to 31 March 2010, is forecast to produce an even lower level of absconding, both nationally across England and Wales, and at Ford.

The following table shows the number of absconds from HMP Ford over the last 12 years. With one month remaining in the year, the position at Ford reflects the national picture and shows that this year is set to be the lowest level of absconds at the prison on record.

	Number of absconds HMP Ford
1997-98	50
1998-99	38
1999-2000	68
2000-01	57
2001-02	57
2002-03	91
2003-04	142
2004-05	119
2005-06	94
2006-07	63
2007-08	48
2008-09	53
2009-10 (YTD to end February 2010)	27

Table 1a: Absconds from HMP Ford 2007 by month and by index offence

	2007											
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Affray	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Aggravated burglary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Attempted robbery	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breach of community service order	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breach of suspended sentence	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Burglary	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Burglary of a dwelling place	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Burglary of non-dwelling place	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common assault	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Conspiracy to import drugs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Customs evasion (drugs related)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deception	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 1a: Absconds from HMP Ford 2007 by month and by index offence

	2007											
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Driving while disqualified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Illegal immigrant/detainee	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Import/export/drug	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Manslaughter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other criminal offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Possession of an offensive weapon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Possession of drugs with intent to supply	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Possession of firearm with intent. Endanger life	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Reckless driving	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Robbery	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Supplying drugs	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Taking and driving away	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Theft	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
Wounding with intent to inflict GBH	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Wounding(inflicting GBH)	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 1b: Absconds from HMP Ford 2008 by month and by index offence

	2008											
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Breach of bail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Breach of suspended sentence	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burglary	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	3	3	1
Burglary of non-dwelling place	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Causing an explosion or placing explosive	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Common assault	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Deception	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Driving while disqualified	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Drunk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Escape lawful custody	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Fraud	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
GBH	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Inflict grievous bodily harm	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Libel	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manslaughter	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other burglary offences	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Possession drugs with intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Possession of drugs with intent to supply	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Possession of firearm with intent. Endanger life	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robbery	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	1	1	—	—
Supplying drugs	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Taking and driving away	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Theft	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Trespass with intent	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 1c: Absconds from HMP Ford 2009 by month and by index offence

	2009											
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Aggravated burglary	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burglary	3	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Burglary of a dwelling place	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
Criminal damage	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Deception	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Fraud	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Going equipped for stealing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Import/export/drug	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflict grievous bodily harm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other driving offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Possession of an offensive weapon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Possession of drugs with intent to supply	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 1c: Absconds from HMP Ford 2009 by month and by index offence

	2009											
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Possession of firearm with intent. Endanger life	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Reckless driving	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Robbery	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Taking and driving away	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Theft	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wounding with intent to inflict GBH	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

Table 2a: Temporary release failures from HMP Ford 2007 by month and by index offence

	2007											
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Affray	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Aggravated burglary	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted burglary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Attempted robbery	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burglary	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Common assault	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
False instrument	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Handling stolen goods	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Murder	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Possession drug with intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Robbery	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1
Theft	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Possess firearm with intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

Table 2b: Temporary release failures from HMP Ford 2008 by month and by index offence

	2008											
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Affray	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Attempted burglary	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blackmail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Burglary	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Conspiracy burglary	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Conspiracy to supply drugs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Death by dangerous driving	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drunk	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
GBH	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Import/export drugs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Manslaughter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robbery	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Supplying drugs	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Theft	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Wounding with intent	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 2c: Temporary release failures from HMP Ford 2009 by month and by index offence

	2009											
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Attempted murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Burglary	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Drive while disqualified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Handling stolen goods	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Import/export drugs	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Murder	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robbery	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Taking and driving away	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Note:
These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Reoffenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* adult and *(b)* juvenile offenders in the first quarter of 2008 cohort committed a re-offence in each (i) index disposal and (ii) re-offence category. [323698]

Mr. Straw: Table 1 shows the number of adults who reoffended within one year, and the frequency of reoffending (per 100 offenders), broken down by index disposal for adults who commenced a court order or were discharged from custody in the first quarter of 2008. Table 2 shows the number of reoffences committed within one year by the same cohort, broken down by offence type.

Table 1: Adults: Actual reoffending rates and frequency of reoffending per 100 offenders, by index disposal, 2008 cohort

	Number of offenders in the cohort	Number of offenders that reoffended	Proportion of offenders that reoffended	Number of offences committed per 100 offenders
Court Orders	37,619	13,589	36.1	123.2
Community Orders	27,504	10,127	36.8	128.5
Suspended Sentence Orders	9,875	3,392	34.3	108.5
Custody	16,099	7,952	49.4	230.9
Overall total	53,718	21,541	40.1	155.5

Table 2: Adults: Number of reoffences by offence type, 2008 cohort

Reoffence type	Number of reoffences
Number of offences	83,516
Violence (serious)	366
Violence (non serious)	9,561
Robbery	665
Public order or riot	7,733
Sexual	365
Sexual (child)	63
Soliciting or prostitution	127
Domestic burglary	1,574
Other burglary	2,339
Theft	25,490
Handling	1,017
Fraud and forgery	1,716
Absconding or bail offences	6,986
Taking and driving away and related offences	1,235
Theft from vehicles	1,229
Other motoring offences	8,198
Drink driving	1,194
Criminal or malicious damage	4,214
Drugs import/export/production/supply	646
Drugs possession/small scale supply	4,719
Other	4,079

Table 3 shows the number of juveniles who reoffended within one year, and the frequency of reoffending (per 100 offenders), broken down by index disposal for juveniles released from custody or commencing a non-custodial court disposal or given an out-of-court disposal in the first quarter of 2008. Table 4 shows the number of reoffences committed within one year by the same cohort, broken down by offence type.

Table 3: Juveniles: Actual reoffending rates and frequency of reoffending per 100 offenders, by index disposal, 2008 cohort

	Number of offenders in the cohort	Number of offenders that reoffended	Proportion of offenders that reoffended	Number of offences committed per 100 offenders
Out-of-court disposal	26,962	6,787	25.2	55.5
First-tier penalty	9,951	4,534	45.6	141.8
Discharge	2,008	1,052	52.4	183.6
Fine	1,089	616	56.6	190.5
Referral Order	5,915	2,249	38.0	102.0
Reparation Order	939	617	65.7	246.5
Community penalty	6,359	4,296	67.6	265.9
Attendance Centre Order	634	399	62.9	208.7
Supervision Order	2,721	1,931	71.0	294.5
Action Plan Order	1,031	658	63.8	254.2
Community Rehabilitation Order	688	470	68.3	267.2

Table 5 Juveniles: Actual reoffending rates and frequency of reoffending per 100 offenders, by index disposal, 2008 cohort

	Number of offenders in the cohort	Number of offenders that reoffended	Proportion of offenders that reoffended	Number of offences committed per 100 offenders
Community Punishment Order	340	220	63.6	208.2
Curfew Order	610	423	69.0	297.0
Unknown	329	197	59.9	239.5
Custody	816	606	74.3	342.5
Other disposal	749	490	65.4	308.9
Total	44,937	16,715	37.5	113.9

Table 6 Juveniles: Number of reoffences by offence type, 2008 cohort

Reoffence type	Number of reoffences
Number of reoffences	51,054
Violence (serious)	281
Violence (non serious)	10,117
Robbery	1,267
Public order or riot	5,669
Sexual	80
Sexual (child)	52
Soliciting or prostitution	0
Domestic burglary	1,745
Other burglary	1,370
Theft	7,558
Handling	748
Fraud and forgery	627
Absconding or bail offences	1,786
Taking and driving away and related offences	1,571
Theft from vehicles	645
Other motoring offences	4,210
Drink driving	281
Criminal or malicious damage	6,775
Drugs import/export/production/supply	290
Drugs possession/small scale supply	3,063
Other	3,669

The definition of a reoffence differs between adults and juveniles. For adults, any offence within a year of release from custody or commencement of a court order, which is proven by court conviction within 18 months of release, is counted as a reoffence. For juveniles released from custody or commencing a non-custodial court disposal or given an out-of-court disposal, an offence proven by court conviction or a caution within the same time period is counted as a reoffence. For this reasons the adult and juvenile reoffending rates are not directly comparable.

Adult and juvenile reoffending data for the 2008 cohort were published on 18 March 2010, copies of which have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Alternatively, further information on adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingof adults.htm

Further information on juvenile reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffending juveniles.htm

Young Offenders: Drugs

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders aged *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 16, *(f)* 17, *(g)* 18 and *(h)* 19 years old have tested positive in screening for substance misuse in each young offender institution in each year since 2002; and how many such offenders had access to early intervention and treatment services in each such year. [323891]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare service (CARATs) is the key non-clinical gateway drug treatment service in prisons for prisoners aged over 18. Young people's substance misuse services (YPSMS) provides a similar service for all young people (aged 15-18) in custody.

The following tables shows the number of initial assessments carried out by CARATs and YPSMS in each young offender institution (YOI) for the full financial years since 2002-03 (YPSMS data are only available from 2005-06). This gives an indication of the number of adults and young people engaged with drug treatment services in YOIs, although the level of engagement will vary according to individuals' needs. It is not possible to break down these figures by age.

Figures have been drawn from National Offender Management Service administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

2002-03

Function[1]	Establishment name	CARATs assessments[2]	YPSMS assessments
Male Closed YOI	Aylesbury	132	–
	Brinsford	695	–
	Castington	394	–
	Deerbolt	213	–
	Feltham	1,688	–
	Glen Parva	748	–
	Hindley	171	–
	Lancaster Farms	409	–
	Onley	644	–
	Portland	267	–
	Reading	305	–
	Stoke Heath	673	–
	Swinfen Hall	152	–
Male Juvenile	Ashfield	–	–
	Huntercombe	288	–
	Warrington	176	–
	Wetherby	417	–
Male Open YOI	Hatfield	313	–
	Thorn Cross	169	–

2003-04

Function[1]	Establishment name	CARATs assessments[2]	YPSMS assessments
Male Closed YOI	Aylesbury	95	–
	Brinsford	594	–
	Castington	413	–
	Deerbolt	307	–
	Feltham	1,537	–
	Glen Parva	875	–
	Hindley	284	–
	Lancaster Farms	407	–
	Northallerton	171	–
	Onley	860	–
	Portland	291	–
	Reading	334	–
	Rochester	156	–
	Stoke Heath	657	–
	Swinfen Hall	190	–
Male Juvenile	Ashfield	406	–
	Huntercombe	192	–
	Warren Hill	333	–
	Warrington	165	–
	Wetherby	279	–
Male Open YOI	Thorn Cross	195	–

2004-05

Function[1]	Establishment name	CARATs assessments[2]	YPSMS assessments
Male Closed YOI	Aylesbury	103	–
	Brinsford	766	–
	Castington	760	–
	Deerbolt	225	–
	Feltham	1,492	–
	Glen Parva	839	–
	Hindley	239	–
	Lancaster Farms	568	–
	Northallerton	109	–
	Portland	224	–
	Reading	292	–
	Rochester	195	–
	Stoke Heath	747	–
	Swinfen Hall	91	–
Male Juvenile	Ashfield	519	–
	Huntercombe	473	–
	Warren Hill	452	–
	Warrington	197	–
	Wetherby	1,101	–
Male Open YOI	Thorn Cross	303	–

2005-06

Function[1]	Establishment name	CARATs assessments[2]	YPSMS assessments
Male Closed YOI	Aylesbury	117	–
	Brinsford	623	766
	Castington	430	440
	Deerbolt	245	–
	Feltham	1,031	1,160
	Glen Parva	915	–
	Hindley	130	602
	Lancaster Farms	376	816
	Northallerton	251	–
	Portland	183	–
	Reading	454	–
	Rochester	170	–
	Stoke Heath	437	749
	Swinfen Hall	214	–
Male Juvenile	Ashfield	161	737
	Huntercombe	–	705
	Warren Hill	–	640
	Warrington	–	381
	Wetherby	–	1,148
Male Open YOI	Thorn Cross	247	15

2006-07

Function[1]	Establishment name	CARATs assessments[2]	YPSMS assessments
Male Closed YOI	Aylesbury	101	–
	Brinsford	675	651
	Castington	447	511

2006-07

Function[1]	Establishment name	CARATs assessments[2]	YPSMS assessments
	Deerbolt	277	—
	Feltham	1,102	1,518
	Glen Parva	1,009	—
	Hindley	167	487
	Lancaster Farms	377	803
	Northallerton	248	—
	Portland	221	—
	Reading	451	—
	Rochester	134	—
	Stoke Heath	397	762
	Swinfen Hall	152	—
Male Juvenile	Ashfield	—	680
	Huntercombe	—	501
	Warren Hill	—	604
	Werrington	—	246
	Wetherby	—	1,039
Male Open YOI	Thorn Cross	102	64

2007-08

Function[1]	Establishment name	CARATs assessments[2]	YPSMS assessments
Male Closed YOI	Aylesbury	73	—
	Brinsford	757	548
	Castington	470	454
	Deerbolt	359	—
	Feltham	1,015	1,778
	Glen Parva	1,001	—
	Hindley	191	545
	Lancaster Farms	496	632
	Northallerton	202	—
	Portland	206	—
	Reading	419	—
	Rochester	156	—
	Stoke Heath	427	679
	Swinfen Hall	152	—
Male Juvenile	Ashfield	—	—
	Cookham Wood	26	30
	Huntercombe	—	540
	Warren Hill	—	539
	Werrington	—	181
	Wetherby	—	1,129
Male Open YOI	Thorn Cross	—	14

2008-09

Function[1]	Establishment name	CARATs assessments[2]	YPSMS assessments
Male Closed YOI	Aylesbury	125	—
	Brinsford	659	459
	Castington	467	380
	Deerbolt	323	—
	Feltham	1,054	1,322
	Glen Parva	1,001	—
	Hindley	129	587
	Lancaster Farms	478	458
	Northallerton	239	—
	Portland	297	—
	Reading	439	—
	Rochester	239	—
	Stoke Heath	476	703
	Swinfen Hall	140	—
Male Juvenile	Ashfield	—	—
	Cookham Wood	—	177
	Huntercombe	—	536
	Warren Hill	—	569
	Werrington	—	350
	Wetherby	—	1,101
Male Open YOI	Thorn Cross	139	57

[1] Data have only been drawn from establishments with a main function as a young offender institution or juvenile establishment.
[2] Some of those engaging with CARATs in YOIs will be over the age of 19.

HOME DEPARTMENT

101 Calls: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department will provide for the national non-emergency number in the next three years. [324778]

Mr. Hanson: In March 2010, as part of the Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy, the Government announced their intention to work with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities to develop the '101' number as a national non-emergency number for contacting the police. This will enable the public to report non-emergency crime and antisocial behaviour concerns and contact their local police force, using the same three-digit telephone number, wherever they live in England and Wales. We intend a national police non-emergency number to be in place by March 2012, subject to further work on the procurement of a suitable infrastructure which provides value for money for the police service, Government and the public.

The Home Office is currently committed to funding the existing contract for the '101' number until March 2011. In 2010-11, this will be approximately £950,000. Any future funding will be subject to the next comprehensive spending review.

Animal Experiments

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what budgetary provision his Department has made in 2010-11 for the conducting, directly or otherwise, of scientific procedures on animals pursuant to his Department's objectives; and how much was spent on this in 2009-10. [323212]

Meg Hillier: The Home Office administers a cross-Government account to fund counter-terrorism research. None of that money is ring-fenced for animal research; and no details are held of spending on animal research in 2009-10, or planned spending for this purpose in 2010-11.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many animals of each species were used in scientific procedures *(a)* commissioned directly by his Department and *(b)* otherwise undertaken pursuant to decisions taken by his Department in the most recent year for which figures are available. [323214]

Meg Hillier: In 2009, a total of 170 animals were used in scientific procedures commissioned directly or otherwise by the Home Office, comprising 120 mice, 38 guinea pigs and 12 mini pigs.

Asylum

Mr. Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of asylum cases arising since 2007 have been determined by his Department within six months in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [322835]

Mr. Woolas: Information on asylum cases in which the UK Border Agency has made an initial decision within six months which excludes the appeal rights exhausted outcomes, is set out in the following table; the figures do not include dependents.

	Asylum applications received	*Initial decisions within six months (grants or refusals)*	*Percentage of applications with initial decision within six months*
2007	23,430	18,918	81
2008	25,930	19,624	76
2009	24,250	20,326	84

The initial decisions within six months and the percentage of applications with initial decision within six months are internal management information and as such have not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. These data are provisional and subject to change.

The Home Office publishes statistics on immigration and asylum, including numbers of asylum applications, and initial asylum decisions, on a quarterly and annual basis. These publications are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Border Agency War Crimes Unit

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 322689, *(b)* 322690 and *(c)* 322691 on the UK Border Agency war crimes unit, tabled on 12 March 2010. [324893]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answers that I gave on 24 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 350-51W.

Departmental Internet

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will request Cable & Wireless to use the Internet Watch Foundation list to block access to known child abuse websites from computers on departmental networks. [324099]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* We have been considering with the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) the conditions under which contracts for internet services to Government or Government agencies are offered. It is now a requirement that all suppliers block access to those sites specified on the IWF's list. This will apply to all new contracts offered for supply of these services, and we would strongly urge all current suppliers to ensure that they take the IWF list.

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will advise ministerial colleagues on steps to take to ensure that access to known child abuse sites is not possible from computers on departmental networks. [324100]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* The Government take the prevention of access to such images very seriously. We believe that Government should take all effective measures, such as the use of criteria in contracts, to ensure that Departments only buy internet services from suppliers that take the Internet Watch Foundation list. The changes to the OGC conditions to ensure that suppliers do this, as set out in their recent Procurement Policy Note, should be used by Departments to help them select their suppliers.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what budgets proceeds of crime recovered as a result of Crown Prosecution Service prosecutions are allocated to *(a)* local Crime Reduction Partnership budgets, *(b)* other local budgets and *(c)* central Government budgets. [324040]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Crown Prosecution Service receives 18.75 per cent of the proceeds of crime recovered as a result of its prosecutions. In 2008-09 it received £10.6 million and this has been used to fund training of their lawyers, monitoring the work of their local areas and in supporting their asset recovery function. Full year figures for 2009-10 are not yet available.

In 2009-10, the Crown Prosecution Service contributed £375,000 of recovered proceeds to the Community Cashback Scheme. This was a new scheme in England and Wales which gives local people a say in how £4 million of recovered criminal assets should be spent in their communities. The Local Criminal Justice Boards considered applications for funding for community projects up to an overall maximum of £95,000 in their area. 269 projects were funded.

Detention Centres: Children

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies on the detention of children of the recent decision in the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Muskhadzhiyeva. [324695]

Mr. Woolas: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Oxford, West and Abingdon (Dr. Harris) on 17 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 955W.

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment he has made of the reasons for the hunger strike by detainees at Dungavel immigration removal centre; and if he will make a statement; [323502]

(2) how many cases of hunger strike have occurred at immigration removal centres in each of the last two years. [323504]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* There has not been a hunger strike at Dungavel immigration removal centre (IRC).

I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent to Members of this House by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier), on 24 February 2010, addressing the inaccurate reporting in the media of a hunger strike at Yarl's Wood IRC; and to my own comments during Home Office questions in the House on 22 March 2010.

Those detainees said to be on hunger strike at Yarl's Wood were refusing meals from the centre's canteen, but they were buying food from the centre's shop and vending machines and having food delivered by visitors. They were all also drinking.

There is a well-publicised procedure in every immigration removal centre to enable detainees to complain about any aspect of their detention or care within the centre. There were no records of complaints received from any of the women involved at the start of the protest. Concerns which have since been raised are being addressed.

We only record information on detainees who have missed four consecutive meals, excluding breakfast. Such detainees miss meals for a number of reasons, including fasting due to their religious faith. We do not record the number who state they are refusing food in protest at a particular issue.

All those who miss meals are monitored closely by the centre, including healthcare, where they will receive advice on diet and welfare issues.

The UK Border Agency and the centre management engage closely with such detainees to understand the reason for them missing meals and to seek to resolve any underlying problems.

Electronic Warfare

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the capability of the UK to repair and recover from damage inflicted on critical infrastructure by an electromagnetic pulse attack. [323995]

Mr. Hanson: The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure provides protective security advice to operators of critical national infrastructure which addresses the threats they face and benefits from extensive research programmes which ensure that the advice given is up-to-date. It is not in the interests of national security to provide information about the nature or extent of research programmes that address national security threats.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from each country of origin were granted an entry visa on their *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* third attempt in the last 12 months; and how many from each such country were declined a visa. [323902]

Mr. Woolas: We are unable to ascertain from central records whether applicants issued with visas in any particular period had previously been refused a visa. This information could only be obtained by checking individual records at disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the sterling equivalent is of the charge made for a visa application made at each overseas post where visa applications are accepted from nationals of that country. [323904]

Mr. Woolas: UK visa application fees in sterling are published on our website:

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

The consular rate of exchange is used to calculate the equivalent fees in local currency and which is advertised locally. The consular rate is based on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office corporate rate of exchange, which is set at the start of each month and should be within 3 per cent. of the commercial rate of exchange.

Greater Manchester

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical information as closely related to Manchester Central constituency as possible, the effect on that constituency of the policies of his Department since 1997. [321065]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 8 March 2010]:* Manchester Central comes within the Manchester Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Prior to 1 March 2010, CSPs were referred to as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP). The available statistical information therefore relates to the Manchester CSP.

In terms of police recorded crime in the Manchester CSP, between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime fell by 18 per cent. More specifically:

Violence against the person—down 2 per cent. (down 5 per cent. in last year)

Sexual offences—down 10 per cent. (down 10 per cent. in last year)

Robbery—down 43 per cent. (down 16 per cent. in last year)

Burglary—down 29 per cent. (up 5 per cent. in last year)

Offences against vehicles—down 35 per cent. (down 18 per cent. in last year)

Other theft offences—down 12 per cent. (up 2 per cent. in last year)

Criminal damage—down 20 per cent. (down 11 per cent. in last year)

Drug offences—up 151 per cent. (up 3 per cent. in last year) (there has been increased recording of drug offences which is mainly attributable to the increased use of police powers to issue cannabis warnings).

Data prior to 2002-03 are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Additionally, no data at CSP level are available prior to 1998-99.

Manchester CSP is covered by Metropolitan, North Manchester, South Manchester and Trafford basic command units, which had a total of 2,167 police officers as at 30 March 2009. The number of police officers has decreased by 74 since 2003. Comparisons with 1997 at BCU level are not available. There were 218 police community support officers as at 30 March 2009 while there were none in existence in 1997.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 saw positive effects with the statutory duty to create a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). These are now referred to as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

The Manchester CSP has brought new ways of working in a cross cutting way with the police, council and other key stakeholders and genuine partnership working to help tackle complex issues.

Neighbourhood Police Teams are in place and the Manchester Central constituency is served by a number of such teams from the Greater Manchester police's North Manchester and Metropolitan Divisions. Neighbourhood policing is a crucial partnership with the public and is helping to reduce crime and enhance community confidence in the police. The visible policing presence is augmented by information on neighbourhood policing in each area which is available on the internet. None of this was in place in 1997.

All CSPs, including Manchester, are putting in place minimum standards to tackle antisocial behaviour (ASB). By tackling ASB and providing support for victims, these will help to reduce local perceptions of ASB and improve public confidence. This was not in place in 1997. In addition, before 1997 there were no bespoke powers to tackle antisocial behaviour whereas there are now a range of powers to deal with this issue. These include antisocial behaviour orders and Designated Public Places Orders (DPPO) from the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Manchester is in the top 50 national priority areas for alcohol-related harm.

The effects of the Department's policies on crime, antisocial behaviour, policing, and night time economy management have been consistently positive and instrumental in supporting the city centre's development as a safer, more popular and vibrant place to visit.

Detailed and comprehensive analysis is being used by Manchester, along with specific action plans to ensure reductions in serious violent crime. The Manchester Violent Gang Board has recently been commended for their approach to the issues within Manchester and have been given a Green Flag by the Audit commission for their work in relation to Guns and Gangs. Gun crime is down significantly—Greater Manchester Police's Xcalibre Operations have had notable success in targeting the gang culture and securing convictions against gang leaders and members. Firearms discharges have reduced in Manchester over the last three years. This is helping to improve safety in Manchester Central.

Since 1997 a key element of Home Office policy in addressing domestic violence has been driven through the Home Office-led Cross-Government National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan. This includes the Specialist Domestic Violence Court programme (Manchester gained accreditation in 2008). It also includes Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), the Government's approach to identified high risk victims of domestic violence. Manchester is developing three MARACs covering all three Police Divisions. Victims of domestic violence are supported by Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs)—trained specialists who provide a service to victims who are at high risk of harm which have been shown to decrease victimisation. Manchester now has 10 IDVAs.

Since 1997 a key element of Home Office policy in addressing sexual violence has been driven through the delivery of the Home Office-led Cross-Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse which aims to increase access to health and support services for victims; improve the response of the criminal justice system for victims, and to prevent sexual violence in the first place. This has led to expanded services such as Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) to improve victim care. Home Office has supported the continued development of St. Mary's SARC in Manchester and the development of an ISVA service at the centre.

Manchester is a recipient of Youth Crime Action Plan funding and has rolled out a programme of initiatives designed to tackle Youth Crime. Manchester also receives funding from the Tackling Knives Action Programme and has engaged in a number of enforcement and educational activities to tackle and deter young people from involvement in all forms of serious youth violence. These include Safer Schools Partnerships.

The drug treatment system in Manchester has developed by means of joint planning and commissioning of services over many years. The introduction of national drug strategy and the establishment of pooled treatment budget arrangements in 2001-02 have done much to formalise and enhance partnership working. This has resulted in the development of an integrated treatment system. Manchester has an effective Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP).

Manchester is achieving significant reductions in acquisitive crime, but recognises that there are still challenges, particularly in tackling issues such as domestic burglary and robbery. Robust plans are in place to tackle these. There is a real focus on student safety and Manchester has developed a Student Safety Business Model. Manchester is a Vigilance area and Safer Homes Fund area which are Home Office programmes aimed at tackling acquisitive crime, particularly burglary and robbery. Greater Manchester Police's Operation Storm has had real success in recent reductions in domestic burglary in particular.

From 1 April 2010, CSPs are required to formulate and implement a strategy "to reduce re-offending". One of Manchester's priorities includes reducing the offending of prolific and priority offenders and the Partnership is currently exceeding the targets set in the Local Area Agreement. Manchester will shortly introduce Integrated Offender Management (IOM) based on the Greater Manchester Spotlight model and will have three co-located IOM Teams covering the City. This will manage the

most serious offenders including those responsible for acquisitive crime, and violent and domestic violence offences.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 Census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk./

Grimbsy

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Great Grimsby constituency, the effects of his Department's policies on that constituency since 1997. [320180]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Great Grimsby comes within the North East Lincolnshire community safety partnership (CSP). Prior to 1 March 2010, CSPs were referred to as crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRP). The following statistical information therefore relates to the North East Lincolnshire CSP area.

In terms of police recorded crime in the North East Lincolnshire CSP, between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime fell by 26 per cent. More specifically:

Violence against the person—up 16 per cent. (down 1 per cent. in last year)

Sexual offences—down 30 per cent. (up 8 per cent. in last year)

Robbery—down 33 per cent. (down 17 per cent. in last year)

Burglary—down 38 per cent. (down 5 per cent. in last year)

Offences against vehicles—down 62 per cent. (down 41 per cent. in last year)

Other theft offences—down 12 per cent. (up 3 per cent. in last year)

Criminal damage—down 17 per cent. (down 18 per cent. in last year)

Drug offences—up 16 per cent. (down 26 per cent. in last year) (there has been increased recording of drug offences which is mainly attributable to the increased use of police powers to issue cannabis warnings).

Data prior to 2002-03 are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Additionally, no data at CSP level are available prior to 1998-99.

North East Lincolnshire basic command unit had 263 police officers as at 30 March 2009. The number of police officers has decreased by 115 since 2003. Comparisons with 1997 for North East Lincolnshire BCU are not available. There were 49 police community support officers as at 30 March 2009 while there were none in existence in 1997.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 saw positive effects with the statutory duty to create a crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP)—now commonly known as a CSP (community safety partnership). The CSP (Safer Communities North East Lincolnshire) has brought new ways of working in a cross cutting way with the police, council and other key stakeholders and genuine partnership working to help tackle complex issues.

The CSP paved the way for a number of community safety initiatives which have benefited Great Grimsby. North East Lincolnshire has received funding under the Home Office Crime Reduction programme and successor initiatives including the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund and the Basic Command Unit Fund. It has also benefited from other targeted Home Office funding streams which support work on drugs and alcohol harm reduction, domestic abuse, neighbourhood crime and justice, and antisocial behaviour.

The Home Office Partnership Support programme helped review CSP delivery structures and the future strategic development of the district's CCTV system. North East Lincolnshire is currently in receipt of funding from the Vigilance programme which is helping to accelerate the development and implementation of integrated offender management (IOM). This is seen as the next step in achieving further sustainable reductions in crime across the district. A multi-agency event on 17 March 2010 marked the formal launch of IOM in North East Lincolnshire.

Before 1997 there were no bespoke powers to tackle antisocial behaviour but there are now a range of powers to deal with this issue. These include antisocial behaviour orders and designated public places orders (DPPO) from the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

North East Lincolnshire's CSP and wider partnership approach has been recognised nationally as effective practice. For example, the delivery of its Family Intervention programme, which joins-up the resources of several government departments, and its work on reducing antisocial behaviour and providing visible neighbourhood justice. In 2009, Safer and Stronger Communities North East Lincolnshire won the prestigious Home Office Tilley Award for its Sport Lincs initiative.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

Hackney

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Hackney North and Stoke Newington constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [318373]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Hackney North and Stoke Newington comes within the Hackney community safety partnership (CSP). Prior to 1 March 2010, CSPs were referred to as crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRP). The statistical information therefore relates to the Hackney CSP.

In terms of police recorded crime in the Hackney CSP, between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime fell by 24 per cent. More specifically:

Violence against the person: down 5 per cent. (down 8 per cent. in last year)

Sexual offences: up 2 per cent. (up 13 per cent. in last year)

Robbery: 55 per cent. (down 16 per cent. in last year)

Burglary: down 43 per cent. (down 1 per cent. in last year)

Offences against vehicles: down 50 per cent. (down 10 per cent. in last year)

Other theft offences: down 25 per cent. (down 11 per cent. in last year)

Criminal damage: down 49 per cent. (down 21 per cent. in last year)

Drug offences: up 272 per cent. (up 3 per cent. in last year) (there has been increased recording of drug offences which is mainly attributable to the increased use of police powers to issue cannabis warnings).

Data prior to 2002-03 are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Additionally, no data at CSP level are available prior to 1998-99.

Hackney basic command unit had 757 police officers as at 30 March 2009. The number of police officers has increased by 84 since 2003. Comparisons with 1997 for Hackney BCU are not available. There were 100 police community support officers as at 30 March 2009 while there were none in existence in 1997.

Funding

The borough is funded well through central streams and has acquired a large block of funding (£600,000) from the area-based grant beyond the element usually provided via HO crime allocations.

Hackney is in the top 50 national Alcohol Strategy Delivery Programmes and has received £25,000 for targeted enforcement; multi-agency NTE work; enforcement training; guidance on the use of tools.

In 2009-10, Hackney is in receipt of £54,000 from CLG to tackle ASB plus a further £12,000 to train ASB Resident Champions and undertake a resident-led ASB project. The borough also gets £70,000 from Home Office as one of the country's Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Pioneer areas, substantial monies as part of DCSF's Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) areas and further small pots of funding from Home Office for ASB victims and witness support, and for local ASB surveys.

Hackney Safer Greener Partnership

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 saw positive effects with the statutory duty to create a crime and disorder reduction partnership—CDRP (now called CSPs). The partnership has brought new ways of working in a cross-cutting way with the police, council and other key stakeholders and genuine partnership working to help tackle complex issues.

Priority issues for the borough are:

Serious violence

Youth violence

Community engagement and perceptions

The Area Assessment published in October 2009 found local partners' approach to tackling crime in Hackney is strong and is delivering good results. Hackney is effectively sustaining the significant longer term reductions already achieved.

Incidents of knife and gun-related crime, as well as antisocial behaviour, have also decreased. It found local partners are using a number of ways to tackle crime. Public services in Hackney have used safer neighbourhood offices to collocate staff who focus on enforcement activity and to tackle drug-related crime, a dedicated drugs squad has been set up. Drug misuse has fallen at a faster rate than other areas of London. Antisocial behaviour and associated youth crime are being effectively tackled. Youth crime has decreased across the borough and concerns about antisocial behaviour have also decreased. Overall, children and young people's safety is promoted well in Hackney.

The assessment also found Hackney tackles weapon and gang crime through a variety of approaches that aim to divert and motivate young people away from crime through community payback schemes; sport and education, Friday and Saturday evening youth provision, parenting programmes and finding alternatives to school exclusions.

Drug-related offending

To tackle drug-related crime a dedicated drugs squad has been set up. This has resulted in significant reductions in drug-related crime. Other initiatives include the Diamond project aimed at reducing reoffending and a dedicated police officer working with Mind, a mental health charity, to work with and support those who have mental health issues and commit crime. As a result of these projects, drug misuse has fallen at a faster rate than other areas of London.

Hackney is funded by the HO as an 'intensive' Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) area enabling it to tackle drug-related offending through a range of 'intensive' DIP applications including drug-testing on arrest and restriction on bail provisions allowing more offenders to be targeted, steered into treatment and out of a life of crime. Hackney's DIP budget for 2009-10 is £1,536,227and for 2010-11 is £1,471,088 (4 per cent. reduction). The operation of DIP in Hackney in 2008-09 saw over 2,800 arrestees tested (final figures for 2009-10 are not yet available). 178 were referred into and started structured treatment from DIP—work is being done to improve this referral route into treatment.

Violent crime

Hackney saw a 20 per cent. reduction in grievous bodily harm incidents, 50 per cent. reduction in the number of murders and an overall reduction of 3.4 per cent. in rape allegations during 2006-07 in comparison with 2003-04.

Antisocial behaviour and neighbourhood policing

Before 1997 there were no bespoke powers to tackle antisocial behaviour but there are now a range of powers to deal with this issue. These include antisocial behaviour orders and designated public places orders (DPPO) from the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

37.6 per cent. of residents perceive ASB to be a problem (30th out of the 33 London local authorities). The borough is particularly worse than average for 'noisy neighbours/loud parties', 'rubbish and litter lying around' and 'people using or dealing drugs'.

25.3 per cent. of residents agree that the police and local services are successfully dealing with crime and ASB in their area. This is below the London average (28.2 per cent.).

Hackney prioritised NI 17 (perceptions of ASB) (and NI 195—street cleanliness) in its local area agreement.

Hackney has made ASB a priority within the borough and has regular meetings of a forum linked to the LSP. It is recognised to be improving on local responses to ASB. *Youth crime*

Total funding received from the YJB for 2009-10: £934,876.86

Total budget for 2009-10: £4,168,422

Hackney is a pioneering borough and committed to cracking down on youth crime. There are many schemes aimed at young people including after school activities;

street-based youth workers and schemes such as Operation Staysafe aimed at identifying children at risk in the late hours.

The rate of reoffending by young people in Hackney is comparable with similar areas. There are priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11 to reduce offending and reoffending among young people and to offer them more and better activities. Two thirds of young people participate in positive activities outside of the school day. The youth offending team works well and there has been increased investment in Hackney's youth services. The proportion of young people sentenced to custody increased in 2008-09 and is higher than the national average, but in line with similar areas. There is an over-representation of black young people in the youth justice system but this is showing a downward trend. Hackney's new youth crime reduction strategy has been informed by a range of evaluations, studies and data including a gap analysis of provision for young black people. More young offenders are in education, employment and training than before and the proportion living in suitable accommodation has also improved.

Data from Hackney (Hackney Youth Crime Strategy 2009) shows that just over 200 Hackney residents under 19 years have been victims of serious violence. Hackney partners are seeking new ways of encouraging and supporting young victims and witnesses to enable them to feel safe in reporting crime and giving court evidence. They are part of the London Integrated Offender Management Programme and have adopted the principles of intense monitoring of offenders balanced with support to rehabilitate for serious youth violence.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk./

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the *(a)* 94 individuals accommodated by a local authority whilst awaiting their reasonable grounds decision and *(b)* 61 individuals accommodated by a local authority for at least part of their 45 day reflection period between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009 were adults. [324639]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

Records as at 31 December 2009 show that between 1 April and 31 December 2009:

(a) three adults referred to the National Referral Mechanism identification process for victims of human trafficking were accommodated by local authorities while awaiting their reasonable grounds decision.

(b) no adults were accommodated by local authorities during their reflection periods.

We have invested £3.9 million over the current and next financial year into the provision of specialist accommodation and support for adult victims of human trafficking.

Responsibility for the care, protection and accommodation of child trafficking victims falls within the designated responsibilities of local authorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children under the provisions of the 1989 and 2004 Children Acts.

Human Trafficking: Victims

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been referred through the National Referral Mechanism since 1 April 2009; and how many of them were conclusively identified as trafficked victims. [325034]

Mr. Woolas: Between 1 April 2009 and 28 February 2010 there have been 626 referrals made to the National Referral Mechanism and 193 conclusive grounds decisions of which 105 were positive conclusive grounds decisions.

Identity Cards

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers the Identity Commissioner has to investigate individual complaints from members of the public on identity cards; and what sanctions the Commissioner has. [324205]

Meg Hillier: The role of the independent Identity Commissioner, as set out in the Identity Cards Act 2006, is to oversee the areas of the National Identity Service (NIS) set out in the Act, helping ensure the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) meets its statutory commitments. The key areas of focus are:

the arrangements for securing the confidentiality and integrity of the information recorded on the National Identity Register;

the way IPS deals with complaints under the NIS;

the way identity cards are used.

The Identity Commissioner and his office are open to receiving queries and are keen to hear comments from the public which will feed into the commissioner's report. The commissioner will also ensure that his recommendations and concerns influence IPS's future policy and processes. It is not part of the commissioner's role to respond to individual queries or complaints as there is already an established IPS complaints process.

The Act does not give the Identity Commissioner the power to impose sanctions. If the Identity Commissioner finds a material breach of the Data Protection Act he will report it to the Information Commissioner, as well as the Home Office. The Information Commissioner's Office does have the power to issue sanctions. Section 23 of the Act does, however, provide for the Identity Commissioner to report annually to the Home Secretary about the carrying out of his functions. In addition, the Identity Commissioner can make a report at any other time, to the Secretary of State, on matters relating to the carrying out of his functions as he sees fit. The Home Secretary lays the reports he receives, from the Identity Commissioner under this section of the Act, before Parliament.

The Identity Commissioner's First Annual Report was laid before Parliament on 25 February 2010. This report covers the Identity Commissioner's findings from his first three months in office and his future plans for 2010.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Identity Commissioner has been informed of the results of past and current Office of Government Commerce Gateway reviews of the National Identity Card and National Identity Register schemes. [324206]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service have provided all the information requested by the Identity Commissioner since his appointment in October 2009, including providing copies of Office of the Government Commerce Gateway reviews.

In his first annual report, laid before this house on 25 February 2010, the Identity Commissioner provided details of the work he has undertaken since his appointment. He also sets out his plan of work for 2010.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many raids the UK Border Agency has conducted of hereditaments within the Government Secure Zone within the last 24 months; in what locations; how many illegal immigrants have been identified; and at what premises. [324204]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency is not able to identify which properties within the Government Secure Zone are recognised as "hereditaments" as this is outside the scope of the UK Border Agency's business remit.

However the number of enforcement visits carried out in the London SW1 postcode area in the last 24 months was 62. The number of immigration offenders encountered on these enforcement visits was 49. The UK Border Agency does not divulge personal names or addresses for reasons of confidentiality.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Immigration: Turkey

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of Turkish citizens who have entered the UK under the terms of the Ankara Agreement; and if he will make a statement. [322863]

Mr. Woolas: The number of Turkish nationals who have been granted entry clearance to the UK under the Turkish European Community Association Agreement, also known as the Ankara Agreement, in each year since 2004 is shown in the following table. The number of entry clearance applications received in each of these years is also shown. Reliable information for previous years is not held. We do not keep a separate record of people who have actually been admitted under the agreement.

Turkish ECAA – Applications for entry clearance

	Applications received	*Visas issued*
2004	1	0
2005	3	1
2006	3	0
2007	7	3
2008	23	2
2009	54	10
2010 (January-February)	41	0

These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

Nottinghamshire Police Authority

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he last met representatives of Nottinghamshire police authority and Nottinghamshire police force to discuss *(a)* their recently published capability study and *(b)* their future strategy; and if he will make a statement. [324276]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Secretary has not met representatives of Nottinghamshire police authority or Nottinghamshire police force since the publication of the Capability Review in March 2010. I met with representatives from the police authority on 4 March 2010.

The Home Office, ACPO, the National Policing Improvement Agency and the Association of Police Authorities are offering full support to the authority and force as they strive to meet the recommendations in the report. Support is provided in line with the process set out in the policing performance narrative ("The New Performance Landscape for Crime and Policing") published in summer 2009.

Police: Complaints

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with (i) Essex Police and (ii) others on the death of Lee Balkwell at Baldwins Farm, Upminster on 18 July 2002; and if he will seek an explanation from Essex Police on why it has not implemented in full the recommendations of the Independent Police Complaints Commission in relation to the investigation of the case. [324092]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* The only contacts which my officials have had with Essex police and the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in this case have been to obtain information in preparing responses to correspondence on this tragic case received from the hon. Member.

It is for individual police forces to decide how to respond to IPCC recommendations following investigations and Home Office Ministers have no power to intervene in those decisions.

I understand that the IPCC recommended that Essex police appoint an external force to conduct an independent reinvestigation into Lee Balkwell's death.

Essex police decided to appoint an external force to review the Essex police investigations to date. West midlands police is conducting that internal review, which is continuing.

Police: Manpower

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers there were in each year since 1997 and *(b)* police community support officers there were in each year since 2002 in Greater Manchester Police. [324875]

Mr. Hanson: The available data can be seen in the following tables.

The first police community support officers started work in September 2002, following legislation which was introduced as part of the Police Reform Act 2002. Therefore, data on police community support officers are not available prior to 31 March 2003.

This and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police officer strength in Greater Manchester police force, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2009, and September 2009, full-time equivalent[1]

	Number
1997	6,922
1998	6,949
1999	6,810
2000	6,795
2001	6,909
2002	7,217
2003[2]	7,343
2004[2]	8,042
20052	8,041
2006[2]	7,959
2007[2]	7,887
2008[2]	7,931
2009[2]	8,124
September 20092	8,148

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. All officers less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures).

[2] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

PCSO strength in Greater Manchester police force, as at 31 March, 2002 to 2009, full-time equivalent[1]

	Number
2002	n/a
2003	160
2004	173
2005	269
2006	251
2007	763
2008	773
2009	782
September 2009	811

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Notes:

1. Full-time equivalent include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
2. Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data are not available prior to 2002-03.

Police: Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much capital funding has been allocated to the Sussex Police in each year since 2000. [324138]

Mr. Hanson: The information available can be found in the following table:

Capital funding allocated to Sussex police

	£ million
2000-01	1.732
2001-02	2.591
2002-03[1]	3.529
2003-04[1]	3.278
2004-05[2]	3.211
2005-06[3]	4.183
2006-07[3]	4.388
2007-08	4.354
2008-09	4.354
2009-10	4.354
2010-11	4.354

[1] Including Premises Improvement Fund.
[2] Including Frontline Technology.
[3] Including Air Support.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Databases

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which local authorities have access to the Serious Organised Crime Agency's ELMER database: and what *(a)* personal and *(b)* property data are held on the ELMER database. [323964]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Serious Organised Crime Agency has partnership agreements in place with three local authorities allowing accredited financial investigators access to ELMER through terminals housed in local police units. These are the London borough of Tower Hamlets Trading Standards Service and London Illegal Money Lending Team, Neath Port Talbot county borough council's Consumer Fraud Team, and Trading Standards within Glasgow city council.

The Elmer database only holds personal or property data that have been submitted to SOCA in Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) by institutions or individuals fulfilling their obligations under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Stroud constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies and actions since 2000. [321209]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Stroud comes within the Stroud Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Prior to 1 March 2010, CSPs were referred to as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP). The available statistical information therefore relates to the Stroud CSP.

In terms of police recorded crime in the Stroud CSP, between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime fell by 14 per cent. More specifically:

Violence against the person—up 16 per cent. (down 7 per cent. in last year)

Sexual offences—up 29 per cent. (up 19 per cent. in last year)

Robbery—down 23 per cent. (up 8 per cent. in last year)

Burglary—down 28 per cent. (down 3 per cent. in last year)

Offences against vehicles—down 31 per cent. (up 7 per cent. in last year)

Other theft offences—down 30 per cent. (down 3 per cent. in last year)

Criminal damage—up 5 per cent. (down 12 per cent. in last year)

Drug offences—up 32 per cent. (up 50 per cent. in last year) (there has been increased recording of drug offences which is mainly attributable to the increased use of police powers to issue cannabis warnings).

Data prior to 2002-03 are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Additionally, no data at CSP level are available prior to 1998-99.

Cotswold and Stroud Basic Command Unit had 258 police officers as at 30 March 2009. The number of police officers has increased by one since 2003. Comparisons with 1997 for Cotswold and Stroud BCU are not available. There were 43 Police Community Support Officers as at 30 March 2009, whilst there were none in existence in 1997.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 saw positive effects with the statutory duty to create a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). From March 2010, CDRPs are referred to as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). The CSP has brought new ways of working in a cross-cutting way with the police, council and other key stakeholders and genuine partnership working to help tackle complex issues.

Stroud's Safer Community Team is one of five Inspector Neighbourhood Areas in the Cotswolds and Stroud Police Division. There are three police divisions within Gloucestershire Constabulary.

Stroud's Community Safety Partnership, the statutory multi-agency partnership with responsibility for community safety, is currently looking to move to one partnership with Cotswolds District Partnership. Geographical coverage of the new partnership will therefore coincide with the police division of Cotswolds and Stroud. Information on crime and antisocial behaviour in Cotswolds and Stroud is available on the Crimemapper website at:

http://maps.police.uk/

Before 1997 there were no bespoke powers to tackle antisocial behaviour but there are now a range of powers to deal with this issue. These include antisocial behaviour orders and designated public places orders (DPPO) from the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

On 2 December 2009, the Home Secretary and my right hon. Friend the Member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr. Denham) announced additional funding to develop neighbourhood partnership work to improve public confidence in dealing with issues that matter most in neighbourhoods. This Accelerated Neighbourhood Partnership Fund was targeted at those areas with significantly lower confidence than most similar areas. Stroud was given £41,700 from this fund.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 Census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

TREASURY

Banks: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of *(a)* business and *(b)* personal customers in York with (i) bank accounts, (ii) mortgages and (iii) other investments with each financial institution in receipt of financial support from the public purse. [324224]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Neither HM Treasury nor UK Financial Investments collects or holds such information.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Programme Board minutes of 11 December 2003, paragraph 2, what tests took place in Guildford; in respect of data relating to which bodies the tests were undertaken; what technologies were tested; whether Guildford Borough Council was involved in the tests; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the reports of the tests. [324165]

Ian Pearson: The proposed testing to which reference was made in the minutes was not undertaken.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Programme Board minutes of 18 January 2005, paragraph 8, what the estimated level of imputation of data in the 2007 council tax revaluation was in *(a)* absolute and *(b)* percentage terms. [324170]

Ian Pearson: There was no council tax revaluation in 2007 and no such estimate was made.

Departmental Coordination

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on identifying ways in which HM Revenue and Customs, the Department for Work and Pensions and other Government Departments can better maintain a core database of business identities referred to in the report on service transformation by Sir David Varney. [313939]

Mr. Timms: The initial focus for business taken from Sir David Varney's report on service transformation was to bring together in one place on the

www.businesslink.gov.uk

website all the information and transactions businesses need in dealing with central Government. That work is due to complete by March 2011.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is now developing a common business identifier for use within the Department that will link business tax records held on different HMRC databases. This work will enable delivery of the

enhanced online services for small and medium enterprises set out in paragraph 4.20, page 53 of Budget 2010, including providing businesses with a single view of their current financial relationship with HMRC.

The Government will consider the potential for extending HMRC's approach to other Departments.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies has spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what such items were purchased. [324357]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not readily available and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department awarded contracts for the provision of services relating to its general public inquiry telephone line. [324113]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The HM Treasury (HMT) general public enquiry telephone lines are operated by HMT staff as part of wider public-facing services and are therefore not subject to contractual agreements.

Film: Government Assistance

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on fraudulent claims for assistance made by film companies participating in the Enterprise Investment Scheme. [324142]

Ian Pearson: In the light of representations about access to tax relief outside the spirit of the Enterprise Investment Scheme, discussions are taking place between HM Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs and the EIS community.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of fraudulent claims for assistance made by film companies participating in the Enterprise Investment Scheme. [324143]

Ian Pearson: No such estimate has been made.

Gift Aid

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 255W, on Gift Aid, what plans his Department has to amend Gift Aid *(a)* rules, *(b)* eligibility and *(c)* tax relief. [324203]

Ian Pearson: In February 2010, the Treasury set up a Gift Aid Forum, drawn from representatives across the charitable sector, to consider options for improving Gift Aid, informed by the recent donor research. The forum aims to come up with firm recommendations by the end of September 2010. It has a page on the HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_gift_aid_forum.htm

The Government have announced in the Budget that the UK's tax reliefs for charities and charitable giving, including Gift Aid, will be extended to certain EU charities, to comply with a recent European Court of Justice judgment. To help reduce the increased risk of fraudulent claims, HMRC proposes to introduce a number of changes to the Gift Aid process. These are set out in the HMRC Budget Note:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2010/bn32.htm

Government Departments: Cable and Wireless

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value is of Government contracts with Cable & Wireless to supply internet services. [324101]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* Details of the monetary value of Government contracts with Cable and Wireless are not held centrally.

Government Departments: ICT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse had been of the Office for Government Commerce Heavy Hitter Programme Delivery Director service on the latest date for which figures are available; on which IT projects each consultant contracted under that service worked; and what payments have been made to each such consultant for work undertaken in connection with that service. [318112]

Ian Pearson: The Programme Delivery Directors (PDDs) project was part of a wider initiative, Executive Support Service, launched in 2005 to improve the success rate of major projects. Two consultants were deployed as Programme Delivery Directors, as set out in the table. The costs involved were recovered by the organisations concerned. Both appointments were made following a comprehensive value for money assessment.

Project name	*Description*	*Period of time deployed June 2006 - December 2007*	*Daily rate (£)*	*Total cost minus T and S (£)*
Youth Justice Board	Delivery Director Programme	260 days	1,100	273,000
OIS	Programme Delivery Director	188 days	1,200	217,000
Total		–	–	490,000

Housing: Prices

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average sale price of *(a)* a detached house, *(b)* a semi-detached house, *(c)* a terraced house, *(d)* a flat and *(e)* an average dwelling was in (i) England, (ii) each Government Office region and (iii) each local authority in England in (A) 1996-97 and (B) the latest period for which figures are available. [324829]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) does not routinely calculate average sale price of properties in the geographic areas specified so the information requested cannot be provided without disproportionate cost. However, for over 100 separate locations in England, the VOA does publish, twice yearly in its Property Market Report, individual average price estimates of (a) a post-1960 detached house and (b) a post-1960 flat within a block of flats.

Copies of the Property Market Report are available in the House of Commons Library. The Property Market Report from 2001 onwards is also available electronically on the VOA website at:

www.voa.gov.uk/publications

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the average additional capital value attributed by the Valuation Office Agency to the presence of a conservatory in a dwelling when conducting *(a)* council tax, *(b)* Right to Buy and *(c)* inheritance tax valuations and revaluations. [324036]

Ian Pearson: No such estimate has been made, nor could one be made without disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many dwellings have been valued by the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model to date. [324232]

Ian Pearson: Value estimates for approximately 22 million dwellings have been produced using the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model (AVM) technology. A precise figure cannot be given without disproportionate cost. Value estimates were produced during the preparatory work for the postponed 2007 council tax revaluation in England and have since been produced to support the ongoing maintenance of the investment made in AVM technology.

Individual Savings Accounts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the changes in Individual Savings Account limits announced in the 2009 Budget. [323576]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The costs of the ISA limit increases were published at Budget 2009 in Table A1 at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud09_completereport_2520.pdf

Landfill Tax

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on changing the status of incinerator bottom ash from inert waste to active waste for landfill tax purposes; and if he will make a statement. [324091]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: At Budget 2009 the Government launched a consultation on modernising landfill tax legislation. The consultation sought stakeholder views on proposals designed to ensure that landfill tax remains an effective means of reducing the volume of waste that goes to landfill; those proposals included the possibility of redefining the qualifying criteria for the lower rate of tax.

A non-interpretative summary of representations made during the consultation period, available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_bud09_landfilltax.htm

was published on 4 December 2009. Responses were received from local authorities about incinerator bottom ash.

The Government have completed their dialogue with stakeholders who responded to the consultation and a response was announced at Budget 2010.

The Government have concluded that bottom ash and fly ash from wood or waste combustion will remain eligible for the lower rate of tax, as will those from coal combustion when they are landfilled in a site containing no other waste.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net cost to local authorities was of landfill tax in each year since its introduction. [324324]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is not possible using landfill tax receipts data to determine how much revenue is received from local authorities. This is because registered landfill site operators pay the tax to HM Revenue and Customs and pass on the cost to their customers through the disposal charges they set. The origin of the landfilled waste is not recorded on the tax return.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fast-track reviews of port rating assessment have been initiated by the Valuation Office Agency; how many such reviews will be completed before the end of the 2009-10 financial year; and for what reasons businesses reviewed after the end of 2009-10 will be required to pay retrospective rates to 2005. [323595]

Ian Pearson: From 24 November 2008, the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) put in place 'fast track' arrangements for ratepayers affected by the review of ports who wish to question or challenge their new rating assessments. As at 10 March 2010, the fast track arrangements have been applied to 972 proposals (appeals), of which 608 have been completed.

It is estimated that 650 reviews will be completed by 5 April 2010.

The effective date of any change to the rating lists will be determined in England by the Non-Domestic Rating (Alterations of Lists and Appeals) Regulations (England) 2005. Where changes are made after 5 April 2010, the nature of the change and the application of the regulations will dictate whether the effective date is limited to the date of alteration or is backdated to some earlier date.

Non-domestic Rates: Public Lavatories

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the average rateable value of a municipal lavatory in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [324029]

Ian Pearson: No estimate has been made for this class.

Average rateable value information, including that for municipal lavatories, was first published on the Valuation Office Agency website on 18 December 2009

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/Table3-England_RV_by_scat_code.xls

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/Table4-Wales_RV_by_scat_code.xls

Information for municipal lavatory can be found under: Public Conveniencey Scat code 224.

Non-domestic Rates: Sex Establishments

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the average rateable value of a lap dancing club in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [324031]

Ian Pearson: An estimate has not been made. No data are available to differentiate lap dancing clubs from other licensed clubs, public houses and bars.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many lifeboat stations in England had *(a)* a decrease, *(b)* no change, *(c)* a one to 20 per cent. increase, *(d)* a 21 to 50 per cent. increase, *(e)* a 51 to 100 per cent. increase, *(f)* a 101 to 150 per cent. increase, *(g)* a 151 to 200 per cent. increase, *(h)* a 201 to 300 per cent. increase and *(i)* an increase of over 300 per cent. in their rateable value between the 2005 Rating List and the 2010 Rating List; [320142]

(2) which 10 individual lifeboat stations hereditaments in England have the biggest percentage change in rateable value between the 2005 Rating List and the 2010 Rating List; and what the *(a)* postcode and *(b)* percentage change in rateable value is for each of these hereditaments; [320143]

(3) how many stately homes and historic houses participating in the national scheme in England had *(a)* a decrease, *(b)* no change, *(c)* a one to 20 per cent. increase, *(d)* a 21 to 50 per cent. increase, *(e)* a 51 to 100 per cent. increase, *(f)* a 101 to 150 per cent. increase, *(g)* a 151 to 200 per cent. increase, *(h)* a 201 to 300 per cent. increase and *(i)* an increase of over 300 per cent. in their rateable value between the 2005 Rating List and the 2010 Rating List; [320144]

(4) which 10 individual hereditaments of stately homes and historic houses participating in the national scheme in England have the biggest percentage change in rateable value between the 2005 Rating List and the 2010 Rating List; and what the *(a)* postcode and *(b)* percentage change in rateable value is for each of these hereditaments; [320145]

(5) how many coastguard stations in England had *(a)* a decrease, *(b)* no change, *(c)* a one to 20 per cent. increase, *(d)* a 21 to 50 per cent. increase, *(e)* a 51 to 100 per cent. increase, *(f)* a 101 to 150 per cent. increase, *(g)* a 151 to 200 per cent. increase, *(h)* a 201 to 300 per cent. increase and *(i)* an increase of over 300 per cent. in their rateable value between the 2005 Rating List and the 2010 Rating List; [320148]

(6) which 10 individual coastguard station hereditaments in England have the biggest percentage change in rateable value between the 2005 Rating List and the 2010 Rating List; and what the *(a)* postcode and *(b)* percentage change in rateable value is for each of these hereditaments. [320149]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is published in the statistical release by the Valuation Office Agency titled: "Non-domestic Rateable Values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists-England and Wales", updated on the 26 February 2010. A copy of the statistical release is available on the VOA website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many holiday centres in England had *(a)* a decrease, *(b)* no change, *(c)* a one to 20 per cent. increase, *(d)* a 21 to 50 per cent. increase, *(e)* a 51 to 100 per cent. increase, *(f)* a 101 to 150 per cent. increase, *(g)* a 151 to 200 per cent. increase, *(h)* a 201 to 300 per cent. increase and *(i)* an increase of over 300 per cent. in their rateable value between the 2005 Rating List and the 2010 Rating List; [320146]

(2) which 10 individual holiday centre hereditaments in England have the biggest percentage change in rateable value between the 2005 Rating List and the 2010 Rating List; and what the *(a)* postcode and *(b)* percentage change in rateable value is for each of these hereditaments; [320147]

(3) how many vineyards or wineries in England had *(a)* a decrease, *(b)* no change, *(c)* a one to 20 per cent. increase, *(d)* a 21 to 50 per cent. increase, *(e)* a 51 to 100 per cent. increase, *(f)* a 101 to 150 per cent. increase, *(g)* a 151 to 200 per cent. increase, *(h)* a 201 to 300 per cent. increase and *(i)* an increase of over 300 per cent. in their rateable value between the 2005 Rating List and the 2010 Rating List; [320150]

(4) which 10 individual hereditaments of vineyards or wineries in England have the biggest percentage change in rateable value between the 2005 Rating List and the 2010 Rating List; and what the *(a)* postcode and *(b)* percentage change in rateable value is for each of these hereditaments. [320151]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is published in the statistical release by the Valuation Office Agency titled: "Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists-England and Wales", updated on the 26 February 2010. A copy of the statistical release is available on the VOA website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

Justin Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* hotels rated 4-star and above and chain operated hotels rated 3-star in the national scheme and *(b)* hotels rated 3-star and below in England had (i) a decrease, (ii) no change, (iii) a one to 20 per cent. increase, (iv) a 21 to 50 per cent. increase, (v) a 51 to 100 per cent. increase, (vi) a 101 to 150 per cent. increase, (vii) a 151 to 200 per cent. increase, (viii) a 201 to 300 per cent. increase and (ix) an increase of over 300 per cent. in their rateable value between the 2005 Rating List and the 2010 Rating List; [320152]

(2) which 10 individual hereditaments of *(a)* hotels rated 4-star and above and chain-operated hotels rated 3-star in the national scheme and *(b)* rated 3-star and below in England have the biggest percentage change in rateable value between the 2005 Rating List and the 2010 Rating List; and what the (i) postcode and (ii) percentage change in rateable value is for each of these hereditaments. [320153]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is published in the statistical release by the Valuation Office Agency titled: "Non-domestic Rateable Values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists-England and Wales", updated on the 26 February 2010. A copy of the statistical release is available on the VOA website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that the Valuation Office Agency does not impose charges without notice on companies in respect of which its assessment is found to be incorrect. [323594]

Ian Pearson: Valuation officers in the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) have a statutory duty to maintain rating lists and correct any inaccuracies which come to their attention.

The VOA does not impose charges—local billing authorities are responsible for charging and collecting business rates. Valuation officers will always send a notice to the rateable occupier of a property setting out any changes to a rating assessment.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the average rateable value of a property used for war games courses in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [324001]

Ian Pearson: No.

Non-domestic Rates: Zoos

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the average rateable value of a zoo in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [324005]

Ian Pearson: No estimate has been made for this class.

Average rateable value information, including that for zoos, was first published on the Valuation Office Agency website on 18 December 2009.

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/Table3-England_RV_by_scat_code.xls

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/Table4-Wales_RV_by_scat_code.xls

Information for zoos can be found under: Zoos and Safari Parks Scat code 304.

Revenue and Customs: Buildings

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) took into account in determining the days and hours of opening of each tax enquiry centre; what mechanisms HMRC used to take account of the requirements of different user groups in each location; what provision has been made to assist the *(a)* elderly and *(b)* people with disabilities to face-to-face communications at those centres; what estimate HMRC has made of the number of people in each customer group who will be affected by the changes in arrangements for tax enquiry centres; and if he will make a statement. [319182]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) remains committed to providing access to face to face advice services for those customers who need this form of support, at or close by where they are provided now. However the way in which the Department does so needs to change to reflect the fact that taxpayers are increasingly turning to online and telephony services.

This year, for example, HMRC's Inquiry Centres will have 40 per cent. fewer customers nationally than they did four years ago. Of the remaining customers, 85 per cent. are able to resolve their query either by self service using the internet or by contacting one of the Department's helplines.

However, there are customers who would benefit from face to face support who, for whatever reason, do not currently access it from HMRC. The Department is keen to extend its reach to these customers by developing, testing and taking forward new approaches to face-to-face service delivery.

In 2008, HMRC tested alternative opening patterns in 10 Inquiry Centres across the UK. This six-month pilot showed no adverse impact on those customers who needed face to face advice from HMRC.

Following this, the Department has moved to new opening patterns in a further 58 of our Inquiry Centres with low numbers of customer visits.

These changes were based on a variety of factors, including the number and pattern of customer visits and appointments, proximity to other Inquiry Centres and other local circumstances. HMRC has also considered demographic data (for example, concentrations of the elderly and lone parents) and consulted with representative customer groups such as Citizens Advice Bureau, Tax help for Older People, and Gingerbread with knowledge of particular customer needs.

HMRC makes various provision to assist the elderly and people with disabilities to access face to face advice in its Inquiry Centre network, including wheelchair access, induction loops and (by appointment) signing support for customers with hearing disabilities, lighted magnifiers for customers with sight disabilities. These services are based on individual needs, and will not change as a result of HMRC's move to alternative opening patterns for its Inquiry Centres.

The Department has published an Equality Impact Assessment of the changes to opening patterns across its Inquiry Centre network which considers the impact of changes to opening hours on particular customer groups, and to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to comment. This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/consultations/enq-centre-service.pdf

No such estimate has been made, as at present HMRC does not hold equality data on its Inquiry Centre customers. To address this, HMRC will introduce new processes from April 2010 to collect such data.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on how many land and property transactions stamp duty land tax was paid in each year since 1997; [318747]

(2) what the average amount paid in stamp duty land tax was in each year since 1997. [318748]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Estimates of the number of residential and non-residential transactions chargeable to stamp duty on land and property are given for England, Wales and Northern Ireland for 1997-98 to 2001-02. An estimate is not available for Scotland for these years.

For the years 2002-03 to 2004-05, estimates of the number of transactions chargeable to stamp duty land tax are given for the UK and estimated based on published figures for Scotland.

For 2005-06 to 2008-09 UK figures for number of transactions chargeable to stamp duty land tax, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/survey_of_prop/table16-5.pdf

are given in the table. For these years chargeability is defined as the transaction priced over the tax threshold, unless tax reliefs reduce the tax liability to zero, whereas for previous years chargeability was defined entirely on price.

For the years from 2002-03 to 2008-09 the average amount of stamp duty land tax paid on chargeable transactions is given for each year, calculated by dividing UK receipts by the number of chargeable transactions in the table.

Estimates for the years from 1997-98 to 2004-05 are derivable from tables 15.1, 16.1A and 16.5 of past paper editions of the publication Inland Revenue Statistics. Estimate for the years from 2005-06 are derivable from figures available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-1.pdf

and

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/survey_of_prop/table16-5.pdf

	Country	*Number of chargeable transactions*	*Average amount of stamp duty land tax per chargeable transaction*
1997-98	England, Wales and NI	[1]720	[3]n/a
1998-99	England, Wales and NI	[1]730	[3]n/a
1999-2000	England, Wales and NI	[1]910	[3]n/a
2000-01	England, Wales and NI	[1]880	[3]n/a
2001-02	England, Wales and NI	[1]1,050	[3]n/a
2002-03	UK	[1]1,280	5,900
2003-04	UK	[1]1,190	6,400
2004-05	UK	[1]1,310	6,800
2005-06	UK	[2]950	11,500
2006-07	UK	[2]1,160	11,500
2007-08	UK	[2]1,100	12,900
2008-09	UK	[2]480	16,700

[1] Based on number of transactions priced above lowest stamp duty land tax threshold.
[2] Based on number of transactions priced above lowest stamp duty land tax threshold where tax reliefs do not extinguish chargeability.
[3] No figures for stamp duty on property receipts available for England, Wales and Northern Ireland for these years.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in which areas disadvantaged area stamp duty relief applies; and what the value is of the threshold. [324325]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Stamp duty land tax disadvantaged areas relief is available in almost 2,000 areas of the United Kingdom. The qualifying areas for relief are set out in the Stamp Duty (Disadvantaged Areas) Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001/3747). The relief applies to land transactions involving residential property where the chargeable consideration for the transaction does not exceed £150,000.

Taxation: Business

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what average length of time it took for HM Revenue and Customs to register a business for tax purposes in *(a)* September 2009, *(b)* October 2009, *(c)* November 2009, *(d)* December 2009 and *(e)* January 2010; [317357]

(2) what average length of time if took for HM Revenue and Customs to register a business for tax purposes in *(a)* September 2008, *(b)* October 2008, *(c)* November 2008, *(d)* December 2008 and *(e)* January 2009. [317359]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is responsible for administering a large number of taxes and duties, of which some have registration regimes and others do not. The data in respect of some of these regimes are held centrally and is readily accessible, while for others they could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 902W, on the Valuation

Office (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the user guidance and manuals for the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model software and database, with information redacted that could assist with unauthorised access; [324321]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the Valuation Office Agency's user guidance and manuals for the *(a)* digital remapping tool and *(b)* locality delineation tool, with information redacted that could assist with unauthorised access. [324322]

Ian Pearson: The guidance requested has been written specifically to provide detail of how to access and operate these applications. Accordingly, it is not possible to redact only those parts that could assist with unauthorised access.

The Valuation Office Agency has no digital remapping tool.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest edition of the Valuation Office Agency's council tax referencing manual. [324370]

Ian Pearson: A copy of the latest edition of the Valuation Office Agency's Council tax referencing manual will be placed in the Library.

Valuation Office Agency: Contracts

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 522W, on the Valuation Office: contracts, how much was spent with *(a)* Video Arts, *(b)* Video Inn and *(c)* Mike Jarvis Video Services in 2008-09; what goods and services were purchased in each case; and for what purposes. [323194]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency spent £211 for training materials on skills enhancements with Video Arts, £20,266 for video and sound equipment hire for conferences with Video Inn, and £460 for video equipment hire with Mike Jarvis Video Services.

Valuation Office Agency: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what bonuses have been awarded to the section of the Valuation Office Agency responsible for the valuation of ports in the last three years; and what the aggregate value was of such bonuses. [324369]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency does not hold centrally a record of the duties performed by individuals in receipt of performance awards or recognition payments. This information is not easily accessible and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Valuation Office Agency: Surveys

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the findings of and report on the Valuation Office Agency's People Survey for *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [323574]

Ian Pearson: The VOA took part in the first civil service-wide People Survey in October 2009. The results for the VOA have now been placed in the Library. The report format is consistent with the results available for other Government Departments/executive agencies and this is to ensure comparability of results across the civil service.

There was no People Survey in 2008. However, the VOA did conduct its own staff survey and this report has also been placed in the House Library.

VAT: Direct Mail

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations HM Revenue and Customs has received on proposals to change the value added tax zero rating for mailed marketing or promotional literature; and if he will make a statement. [324785]

Mr. Timms: The Government have no proposals to change the taxation of marketing and promotional literature.

VAT: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much value added tax was paid by businesses in York in 2009; and if he will estimate the sum which would have accrued to the Exchequer in that year under a value added tax rate of 17.5 per cent. [324223]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

While HM Revenue and Customs' systems record an address for each VAT registered business this is not always a reliable indicator of where it does business.

Since the majority of VAT is paid by the largest businesses that typically operate throughout the UK, it is not appropriate to allocate VAT paid by a business to the location of its VAT registration.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households from which the recovery of a tax credits overpayment is being sought. [317309]

Mr. Timms: As members of households can change overtime and one individual may have been in several tax credits awards, overpayments are calculated and recovered on the basis of awards rather than households.

Figures at household level are available only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of awards that have been overpaid each year is available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised Awards 2007-08. Supplement on Payments in 2007-08". This is available on the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/ctcwtc-tax-credit-final-may09-sup.pdf

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate her Department has made of the cost of paying attendance allowance for claims started in 2010-11 in the next five years; [323557]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the *(a)* number of new claimants of attendance allowance and *(b)* cost to her Department of new claims for attendance allowance in each of the next five years. [323558]

Jonathan Shaw: In line with HM Treasury convention, forecasts of benefit expenditure and related volumes are not published beyond the current spending review period. Information on the forecast number of new awards for attendance allowance in 2010-11, and the expenditure on those claimants in 2010-11, is contained in the table.

The figures should not be seen as indicative of the total claimant count estimates for attendance allowance over the same period as they do not account for off-flows.

	New claimants of attendance allowance 2010-11
Total number of awards	330,000
Number of awards in payment	250,000
Expenditure in 2010-11 (£ million)	416

Notes:
1. Estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000 awards and £1 million expenditure.
2. The estimated total number of awards represents new awards to attendance allowance liveload, and will include some cases which are not in payment.
3. A small number of renewal claims are excluded, as these people are already claiming the benefit and this information is not estimated separately.
4. Estimated expenditure relates to that part of 2010-11 that each new claimant spent on attendance allowance. On average, each new claimant in 2010-11 will have spent around half of 2010-11 receiving benefit. It is assumed that all new awards continue claiming until the end of 2010-11.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Statistical data and pre-Budget report forecasts

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Surveillance

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 456W, on the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: surveillance, whether *(a)* the commission and *(b)* its predecessor has made use of personal (i) Census, (ii) HM Revenue and Customs' tax records and (iii) Experian data. [324398]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 23 February 2010, official Report, column 456W, on Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: surveillance, whether (a) the Commission and (b) its predecessor has made use of personal (a) Census, (b) HM Revenue and customs tax records and (c) Experian data.

Neither the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, nor the Child Support Agency (when it was an Executive Agency of the Department for Work and Pensions) has made any use of census data. Both the Commission and the Child Support Agency have however had access to information held by HM Revenue and Customs and Experian for the purposes of tracing non-resident parents, establishing the amount of child maintenance payable and negotiating the payment of child maintenance arrears.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 456W, on the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: surveillance, whether the Commission and its predecessor have made use of *(a)* covert human intelligence sources and *(b)* private investigators. [324405]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 23 February 2010, Official Report, column 456W, on Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: surveillance, whether the Commission and its predecessor have made use of (a) covert human intelligence sources and (b) private investigators.

Neither the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, nor the Child Support Agency (when it was an Executive Agency of the Department for Work and Pensions) has made any use of covert human intelligence services or private investigators.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent progress has been made on the transfer of pre-2003 Child Support Agency cases to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [323484]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent progress has been made on the transfer of pre-2003 Child Support Agency cases to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. (323484)

The problems encountered by the Child Support Agency following the launch of the Reforms in 2003 resulted in a decision to defer the bulk transfer of cases from the old (launched in 1993) scheme, to the current (launched in 2003) child support scheme in the meantime, cases were only migrated from the old computer system to the new computer system where they had a link with a case on the new system that made this necessary.

This decision was kept under review and in February 2006 the Government asked Sir David Henshaw to review the entire system of child maintenance. His subsequent report led to the Government's White paper and to the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008, which makes provision for a new system of child maintenance the "future scheme".

The future scheme will be introduced from 2011, and all clients on the two existing schemes will then have the opportunity to apply to that scheme or make a private arrangement. It is currently planned that this process will take around three years, after which both of the existing schemes will close. It is not Government policy to undertake a bulk transfer of cases between the two existing schemes in the meantime.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Child Support Agency was owed by non-resident parents on the latest date for which figures are available. [324756]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Child Support Agency was owed by non-resident parents on the latest date for which figures are available.

Information on the amount of child maintenance arrears owed by non-resident parents is routinely published in the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics. This is available through the following link:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/stats1209.html

As at December 2009, the amount of child maintenance arrears owed by Non-Resident Parents to either Parents with Care or the Secretary of State is £3,783 million. This has decreased from £3,842 million in December 2008. A total of £150m has been collected in arrears in the year January to December 2009. These figure are un-audited.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Council Tax Benefits

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions her Department has had with *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the Department for Communities and Local Government on the renaming of council tax benefit as council tax rebate. [324744]

Helen Goodman: Discussions at ministerial level took place during the passage of the Welfare Reform Bill and the Government agreed that changing the name of council tax benefit to council tax rebate could have a positive impact on benefit take-up. We want to make the change at the earliest opportunity and discussion take place between officials of Department for Work and Pensions and Communities and Local Government as part of the process for achieving that.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what discussions her Department has held with the Local Government Association on the renaming of council tax benefit as council tax rebate; [324745]

(2) what advice her Department issued to local authorities on renaming council tax benefit as council tax rebate; [324747]

(3) what estimate her Department has made of the number of local authorities whose IT systems are able to facilitate the renaming of council tax benefit as council tax rebate; and how many local authorities have informed her Department that their IT systems are unable to facilitate this change; [324749]

(4) pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for New Forest West of 15 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 607, on council tax benefit, what practical issues other than IT systems her Department has identified as barriers to renaming council tax benefit as council tax rebate; what steps her Department is taking to tackle those issues; and if she will make a statement; [324773]

(5) what assessment she has made of the changes required to local authority IT systems to update the change of name; and if she will make a statement; [324774]

(6) what surveys her Department has undertaken of local authorities to assess the capacity of their IT systems to facilitate the renaming of council tax benefit as council tax rebate. [324775]

Helen Goodman: Renaming council tax benefit will have significant impact on the administration of the benefit, with major delivery implications for local authorities. The main impact will be on IT systems, including where these link to Department for Work and Pensions systems. There will also be necessary changes to forms, leaflets and billing arrangements in order to give accurate information to existing customers, and maximise the impact of the change in improving take-up.

Officials are engaging with local authorities in a number of ways. There have been preliminary formal discussions with the local authority associations and with practitioners from local authorities. This will be followed by more detailed survey of the requirements of individual authorities. Proposals have been outlined to the local authority software suppliers to enable them to start to prepare requirements and costs for the changes and enhancements to IT systems.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of the potential number of additional claimants who will claim council tax benefit when it is renamed council tax rebate. [324746]

Helen Goodman: The Government want to ensure people get the help they are entitled to with their council tax bills and has an ongoing programme of work to encourage them to claim. Renaming council tax benefit as a rebate would help remove a barrier that may prevent some people claiming and we have taken steps to make this important change. We have not made an assessment at this time of the precise impact on take-up that renaming council tax benefit may have but are gathering data that will enable us to make a robust estimate of the additional number of people who would claim council tax rebate.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department has taken to draft legislation to facilitate the renaming of council tax benefit as council tax rebate; and when she expects to lay such legislation before Parliament. [324748]

Helen Goodman: The powers we have taken in the Welfare Reform Act 2009 will enable us to make the change of name to council tax rebate quickly through an order, once we have established a timetable that takes into account the full costs and implementation requirements of local authorities.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department and its agencies have spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324430]

Jonathan Shaw: The information as requested is not available. The Department has a PFI contract for the provision of fully serviced accommodation. We currently occupy around 1,000 buildings under the terms of this contract and pay a per square metre charge known as a facility price. This charge is site specific and does not identify different uses of areas within a property.

A number of sites do have facilities such as gyms, and the vast majority will have rest areas or breakout rooms provided for the relaxation and comfort of staff working there. Often these spaces are dual use fulfilling a function as both areas for rest or leisure, and for more formal uses such as meetings or team sessions.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324551]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP does not provide staff with specific subsidised gym facilities. However, through the DWP discount scheme staff have the opportunity to take advantage of discounts for gym membership.

In addition, gym facilities are provided in some offices for staff who are members of the Health and Social Security Recreational Association (HASSRA) and the Civil Service Sports and Social Club (CSSC). Both HASSRA and CSSC are recreational associations funded primarily by membership subscription.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324686]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by her Department. [324966]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP occupies the vast majority of its properties under the terms of a PFI contract with Telereal Trillium. Telereal Trillium, on behalf of the Department, is currently evaluating two suppliers of voltage optimisation equipment to determine suitability for the DWP estate. The installation of voltage optimisation specifically for lighting circuits is also being considered.

With regard to similar technologies, Telereal Trillium has recently completed a national project on behalf of the Department to install over 5,300 energy saving electronic control devices, on small to medium refrigeration machines—domestic refrigerators and air conditioning units.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the written ministerial statement of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 50-68WS, on departmental expenditure limits, whether her Department made a request for resources 4 as part of its supplementary estimate. [322560]

Jonathan Shaw: The written ministerial statement of 23 February 2010 only details changes to the Departments for Work and Pensions departmental expenditure limit. There were no departmental expenditure limit changes for Request for Resources 4 as part of the Spring Supplementary Estimate.

The Voted provision for Request for Resources 4 increased in the Spring Supplementary Estimate by £3,918,000 from £18,721,770,000 to £18,725,688,000 due to an increase in the provision for the grant in aid payment to the Independent Living Fund. This increase can see be seen in the Central Government Supply Estimates 2009-10 Spring Supplementary Estimate—HM Treasury HC 257:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/springsupps0910_dwp.pdf

Departmental ICT

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department has spent on maintaining its computer systems, excluding capital purchases, in the last year for which figures are available. [322279]

Jim Knight: External expenditure on application maintenance and support was £66 million in 2008-09.

This maintains and supports all the Departments IT estate, including all the IT systems that support Jobcentre Plus, Pensions Disability and Carers Service and payments systems to provide services to over 20 million people.

The Department ensures the best value for money by contracting for IT standard services by rigorously benchmarking and market testing.

Departmental Location

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on the relocation of staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [321423]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has not relocated any staff from posts in Essex or the Castle Point constituency to other parts of the country in the last five years.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much her Department and agencies have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320454]

Jonathan Shaw: Real Help Now was introduced to raise awareness of the services and support available to people to help them through the economic downturn. The Department for Work and Pensions spent a total of £365,000 on a range of activities that came under 'Real Help Now'. These activities included leaflets and advertising to promote financial help available to employers for recruitment, a cross government employment summit and promotion of Real Help Now information on businesslink.gov.uk.

DWP's only supporting communications activity for Building Britain's Future is the Backing Young Britain campaign. This campaign is still running and information on costs will only be available when the activity is complete.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what such items have been purchased. [324359]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not readily available since the management information does not differentiate between the DWP-branded material and that produced for our agencies, Jobcentre Plus, The Pension Service and the Disability and Carers Service, and our 15 non-departmental public bodies. It could therefore be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by her Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of each. [324664]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's policies on hospitality are set out in the DWP Hospitality Framework. This framework is based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

A copy of the DWP Hospitality Framework is being deposited in the Library.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by her Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323467]

Jonathan Shaw: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to share services, functions and back offices with local authorities as part of the Total Place initiative. [323957]

Helen Goodman: The Government's report on Total Place was published alongside Budget 2010.

Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent assessment her Department has made of the effect on levels of unemployment of *(a)* the Support for the Newly Unemployed programme, *(b)* the Six Month Offer, *(c)* the Young Person's Guarantee, *(d)* the Jobseeker Seeker Regime as part of the Flexible New Deal and *(e)* the Flexible New Deal; [322173]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the effect on the number of people flowing off the claimant count of *(a)* the Support for the Newly Unemployed programme, *(b)* the Six Month Offer, *(c)* the Young Person's Guarantee, *(d)* the Jobseeker Seeker Regime as part of the Flexible New Deal and *(e)* the Flexible New Deal. [322174]

Jim Knight: Figures published by the Office for National Statistics show that the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance dropped in February for the third consecutive month, to 1.585 million.

Early evaluation evidence on the jobseekers regime and flexible new deal, the six- month offer and support for newly unemployed was published in January 2010. Further evidence on the impact of the six-month offer and the jobseekers regime and flexible new deal on

customer outcomes will be available from early 2011, with evidence on the impact of the young person's guarantee to follow in 2012.

Employment: Disabled

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department has taken in respect of the working conditions of disabled workers resident in Preston in the last seven years; and if she will make a statement. [311075]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government have significantly improved working conditions for disabled people by providing additional rights under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 for disabled people not to be discriminated against on the ground of their disability, and to have reasonable adjustments made to ensure that they do not experience substantial disadvantage, compared to non-disabled people, in the employment field. Since 1 October 2004, the employment provisions of the Act have been extended to all forms of employment and occupation, except service in the armed forces, and to employers of all sizes. Through the Equality Bill we are making further improvements, including restrictions on the use by employers of pre-employment enquiries about a person's disability or health.

The Health and Safety Executive promotes the message that health and safety issues should not be used as an excuse to exclude a disabled person from work opportunities. The Executive worked with the former Disability Rights Commission to produce its disability web pages and guidance leaflet for disabled employees and their employers. The information on the web pages and within the guidance promotes good practice in disability equality at work and health and safety risk assessment. The web pages also contain much valuable information for employers and employees on reasonable adjustments.

Disabled people, including those in Preston, who are in work or about to start a job may also benefit from Access to Work, a specialist disability programme delivered by Jobcentre Plus, which provides practical advice and financial support to disabled people and their employers to help them overcome work related obstacles resulting from disability. An Access to Work adviser works with the customer to develop a detailed assessment of the customer's needs, leading to grants towards the cost of providing support. In December 2008 we committed to doubling the budget to £138 million by 2013-14, enabling many more disabled people in Preston and elsewhere to benefit.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether she has made a recent estimate of the number of disabled people resident in each local authority area who have moved into work in each of the last five years. [324600]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether she has received recent reports of the notification of Jobcentre Plus of Future Jobs Fund vacancies which have not met the Future Jobs Fund criteria; and if she will make a statement. [320299]

Jim Knight: Guidance and criteria are available on the internet and from Jobcentre Plus.

To ensure that the jobs meet the criteria, bids are rigorously assessed before we award the grant, and Jobcentre Plus also checks individual vacancies at the point when they are notified.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the geographical distribution of jobs created through Future Jobs Fund funding. [323492]

Jim Knight: The geographical distribution of jobs created through the future jobs fund is subject to continuous review with Government offices and Jobcentre Plus to ensure good coverage across Great Britain.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful bidders for Future Jobs Fund funding have since suspended their job offers under the scheme. [323494]

Jim Knight: This information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Jobcentre Plus works with all successful bidders to ensure that future jobs fund jobs are filled by the most suitable candidate.

Income Support

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of income support claims took longer than the target processing time in each benefit delivery centre in each month of the last two years. [321451]

Helen Goodman: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many and what proportion of income support claims took longer than the target processing time in each benefit delivery centre in each month of the last two years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has a formal published target for the average actual clearance time (AACT) taken to process Income Support claims. Within any given month our benefit processing systems calculate the total number of claims we have cleared against the total number of days each of these cases have taken - this results in production of the AACT. The AACT target does not mean that all claims for that benefit should be processed within that time. This is because the target is based on an average which recognises that each individual customer's circumstances differ and by that very nature some cases will be easier/quicker to process than those that are more complex and naturally take longer to process.

On that basis, we are unable to provide the specific information in the manner you have requested.

Jobcentre Plus: ICT

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance is provided for jobseekers at Jobcentre Plus offices on the availability of computers for carrying out job searches. [321642]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what guidance is provided for jobseekers at Jobcentre Plus offices on the availability of computers for carrying out jobsearches. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

All jobseekers claiming Jobseeker's Allowance have an interview with an adviser to discuss and agree realistic and achievable job goals and those steps that, if taken regularly, will offer the best chance of finding work.

During this process, the adviser provides access to a wide range of help and support aimed at improving job prospects and overcoming barriers that might be making it harder to find work. This includes providing information, advice and guidance on how to identify and apply for jobs, and how to make best use of appropriate vacancy sources such as the Jobcentre Plus telephony-based vacancy matching system (Jobseeker Direct) and the government's Internet Job Bank on Directgov, which is accessible through the internet and in all jobcentres via our Jobpoints. Every time customers are asked to attend their local Jobcentre, they are encouraged to use a Jobpoint to identify and apply for jobs. If required, customers are shown how to use a Jobpoint by a member of the Customer Service Team.

We recognise the importance of having access to a computer to enable customers to search and apply for jobs online, as this is rapidly becoming the recruitment channel of choice for employers. In recognition of this, we are developing close working relationships with local providers such as UK Online Centres in England and the equivalent in Scotland and Wales and signposting customers to the support that these provide. Personal Advisers tell customers how they can find their nearest UK Online Centre, and equivalent in Scotland and Wales, using a free phone number, to enable them to gain access to this help. We are also raising awareness of schemes that will help customers get their own home computer, such as the Department for Children, Schools and Families Home Internet Access programme. Furthermore, later this year, we will be Mailing customer access to PCs in some of our Jobcentres and offering supported access to those who have no or low digital skills.

You may also wish to know that Jobcentre Plus launched its Smartphone Application on 10 March, which is an alternative means for our customers to access our Internet Job Bank. The application allows those with compatible smartphones to perform jobsearches and browse job vacancies directly from their handset, whenever they are connected to the internet. This application provides another means of accessing the digital labour market and promoting self-service for our customers.

I hope this reply is helpful and assures you of our intent to make sure jobseekers are able to compete effectively within the labour market and use modern recruitment methods.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many of those in receipt of jobseeker's allowance gave Jobcentre Plus offices as their temporary address whilst of no fixed abode in the last *(a)* 12 months, *(b)* three years and *(c)* five years; [324899]

(2) how many of those in receipt of jobseeker's allowance had their jobseeker's allowance giro payments sent to their local Jobcentre Plus office rather than to a domestic postal address in the last *(a)* 12 months, *(b)* three years and *(c)* five years. [324900]

Helen Goodman: The information is not collated centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Self-employed

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether she has made an estimate of the number of former claimants of jobseeker's allowance who have become self-employed in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* smallest geographical area for which figures are available in each year since 1997. [324531]

Helen Goodman: The information requested is not available.

Although some information is gathered on the Department's administrative systems on the number leaving jobseeker's allowance and moving into work, a breakdown into employees and the self-employed is not available.

Maternity Leave: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women living in City of York took paid maternity leave in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available; how many weeks, on average, they took in each such year; and how much on average they received in maternity pay. [324217]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

New Deal Schemes: Salford

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Salford have been assisted into work through the New Deal since 1997. [322409]

Jim Knight: The jobseeker support regime delivered by Jobcentre Plus has been very successful and the New Deal programme has helped more than 2.2 million people into work since it was introduced in 1998.

The introduction of the Flexible New Deal will support the Government's aim of helping more people secure sustained employment through tailored, flexible help and support, particularly for those people who experience repeated cycles of unemployment. The Flexible New Deal will be available in most areas of the country by October 2010.

The information requested is in the following table:

New Deal—jobs (spells) jobs gained: Salford parliamentary constituency

	Total number of jobs gained
1997	
1998	150
1999	420
2000	440
2001	370
2002	420
2003	560
2004	660
2005	530
2006	420

New Deal—jobs (spells) jobs gained: Salford parliamentary constituency

	Total number of jobs gained
2007	510
2008	700
2009	420
Total	5,580

Notes:
1. "—" = nil or negligible.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten; totals do not sum due to rounding.
3. Westminster parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS Postcode Directory and customer's postcode.
4. Time series is the calendar year that the job was gained. Latest data are to August 2009.
5. Due to changed recording procedures in Jobcentre Plus additional jobs information is now sourced from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).
6. The latest New Deal figures are starting to show the effects of the introduction of the new Jobseekers Regime and Flexible New Deal (JRFND). The scheme is being gradually implemented in phase 1 areas from April 2009 and in the remaining phase 2 districts from April 2010.
7. Spells information not available for New Deal 50 plus and New Deal for Partners so individual level information is used.
8. The New Deal for Young People pilots began in January 1998 and full national roll-out occurred in April 1998.
9. The New Deal for 25 plus programme was introduced in July 1998.
10. The New Deal for Lone Parents was introduced in October 1998.
11. The New Deal for Disabled People was introduced in July 2001.
12. Data on New Deal 50 plus are available from January 2004 (programme was introduced in April 2000).
13. Data for New Deal for Partners are available from April 2004 (programme started in May 1999).

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Occupational Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the operation of her Department's rules on anti-enrolment into workforce pension schemes from October 2012 will entail any change to the net salaries of employees whose employers join the scheme. [324852]

Angela Eagle: From 2012 automatic enrolment into a workplace pension with a guaranteed employer and Government contribution will begin.

Jobholders who already receive workplace pension provision equal to or better than that required under the reforms are unlikely to see any change to their net pay.

The impact of automatic enrolment on net salaries for other jobholders will depend on the level of pension contributions payable into the workplace pension scheme used by the employer.

Once the workplace pension reforms have been fully introduced, overall contributions to qualifying defined contribution schemes must total at least 8 per cent. on a band of earnings. The 8 per cent. total will be made up from a minimum 3 per cent. from the employer, along with the jobholder's own contribution and around 1 per cent. in tax relief. However, employers can choose to pay a greater proportion of the 8 per cent. total—resulting in a lesser impact on net pay.

The contribution rates for jobholders are being phased in over time. This will help jobholders to adjust gradually to the impact of the changes on their net pay. Jobholder contributions will be 1 per cent. from October 2012 to September 2016; 3 per cent. from October 2016 to September 2017 and 5 per cent. from 2017 onwards. All of these rates include normal tax relief.

Defined benefit schemes will be required to meet an overall quality test. The impact upon jobholders' net salaries will depend upon the level of contributions required under scheme rules.

Oikos: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will ensure that the revised safety reports made by *(a)* the local planning authority and *(b)* the emergency planning authority in respect of the Oikos site on Canvey Island under the provisions of the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 1999 are published as soon as each is completed. [322819]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* There is no duty under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (as amended) ('COMAH') for the local planning authority or the emergency planning authority to produce safety reports in respect of the Oikos site on Canvey Island.

Oikos Storage Ltd. as the COMAH operator is required under the regulations to produce a safety report to demonstrate they are taking all necessary measures to prevent major accidents and to limit their consequences to people and the environment.

The COMAH Competent Authority comprising (in England and Wales) the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency are responsible for assessing the safety report. The Competent Authority does not publish COMAH safety reports.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* improvement notices have been issued and *(b)* changes of use have been recorded in respect of the Oikos site on Canvey Island controlled under the provisions of the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 1999 in the last five years. [322820]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* No improvement notices have been issued by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (as amended) in respect of the Oikos site on Canvey Island in the last five years.

Oikos Storage Ltd. has hazardous substances consent from Castle Point borough council to store at its Canvey Island site up to 232.501 tons of highly flammable liquids. HSE understands that there have been no applications to alter the existing hazardous substances consent for this site in the last five years. This and other planning applications are matters for Castle Point borough council as the local planning authority.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will direct the Health and Safety Executive to examine proposals to store petroleum and similar substances at the Oikos terminal on Canvey Island; and if she will make a statement. [322821]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* Oikos Storage Ltd. will be required under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (as amended)

('COMAH') to review and, where necessary, revise its COMAH safety report in the light of proposals to store petroleum and similar substances at its Canvey Island site and to demonstrate that it is taking all necessary measures to prevent major accidents and to limit the consequences to people and the environment.

Such measures will include implementing and maintaining the minimum safety and environmental standards for fuel storage sites. These have been revised following the investigation into the explosion and fires at the Buncefield fuel storage site in December 2005. They have recently been published as the Process Safety Leadership Group's (PSLG) final report which is available on the HSE website.

The Health and Safety Executive will assess any significant changes that are made to the site and to the COMAH safety report in its role as part of the COMAH Competent Authority.

Pension Credit: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in *(a)* each local authority area in the East of England and *(b)* the UK were in receipt of (i) basic state pension and (ii) pension credit in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much on average was received in pension credit in each area in that period; [324691]

(2) how many people receive pension credit in each local authority area in the East of England; and what the average weekly payment was in the East of England in the latest period for which figures are available. [324593]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is provided in the following table.

	People in receipt of basic state pension March 2009	*Individual beneficiaries of pension credit August 2009*	*Households in receipt of pension credit August 2009*	*Average award of pension credit August 2009 (£)*
Great Britain	12,133,400	3,348,970	2,737,290	55.66
East of England local authority area				
Bedford	25,800	6,820	5,640	52.92
Central Bedfordshire	n/a	9,650	7,870	49.84
Mid-Bedfordshire	23,700	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Bedfordshire	20,200	n/a	n/a	n/a
Luton	26,700	9,610	7,650	64.87
Peterborough	26,200	9,090	7,390	57.37
Southend-on-Sea	32,800	10,100	8,420	57.65
Thurrock	22,500	7,130	5,810	55.59
Cambridge	14,900	3,540	3,030	55.95
East Cambridgeshire	14,700	3,610	2,910	52.68
Fenland	21,500	6,690	5,180	50.89
Huntingdonshire	29,900	5,950	4,810	49.78
South Cambridgeshire	27,300	4,370	3,610	51.92
Basildon	31,200	9,490	7,670	54.82
Braintree	27,800	6,920	5,590	51.75
Brentwood	14,600	2,680	2,280	51.32
Castle Point	19,800	5,510	4,280	55.41
Chelmsford	31,200	5,880	4,860	50.82
Colchester	30,000	6,870	5,690	53.29
Epping Forest	26,000	5,710	4,710	56.12
Harlow	13,500	4,430	3,610	51.07
Maldon	14,300	3,180	2,570	53.54
Rochford	18,500	3,880	3,120	50.28
Tendring	42,200	12,250	9,630	53.18
Uttlesford	15,000	2,680	2,190	50.76
Broxbourne	17,000	4,030	3,310	56.66
Dacorum	25,400	5,250	4,370	53.67
East Hertfordshire	23,100	4,450	3,690	52.40
Hertsmere	18,000	3,890	3,290	58.44
North Hertfordshire	24,400	5,270	4,410	49.96
St. Albans	24,000	3,790	3,210	55.09
Stevenage	13,300	4,040	3,300	51.90
Three Rivers	15,800	2,850	2,430	56.57
Watford	12,600	3,070	2,580	58.28
Welwyn Hatfield	17,300	3,990	3,390	52.37
Breckland	30,700	8,090	6,290	49.15
Broadland	31,300	6,080	4,910	46.95
Great Yarmouth	23,000	8,280	6,520	50.09
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	36,600	10,410	8,020	50.17
North Norfolk	30,200	7,620	5,950	50.60

	People in receipt of basic state pension March 2009	Individual beneficiaries of pension credit August 2009	Households in receipt of pension credit August 2009	Average award of pension credit August 2009 (£)
Norwich	21,900	8,590	7,080	[illegible]
South Norfolk	29,100	6,340	4,9[illegible]	[illegible]
Babergh	21,100	4,300	3,490	[illegible]
Forest Heath	9,800	2,840	2,280	[illegible]
Ipswich	21,200	7,220	5,940	[illegible]
Mid-Suffolk	20,800	4,360	3,460	48.38
St. Edmundsbury	21,800	4,890	3,980	48.42
Suffolk Costal	31,600	6,060	4,890	51.28
Waveney	29,400	8,860	6,970	49.70

Notes:
1. Average weekly award of pension credit in the East of England Government region at August 2009 is £52.75.
2. Numbers in receipt of basic state pension rounded to nearest 100.
3. Pension credit case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Pension credit is claimed on a household basis. The average weekly award of pension credit is in relation to the household.
6. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
7. Latest data for pension credit is for August 2009.
8. Latest data for basic state pension is for March 2009.
9. On 1 April 2009, the reorganisation of the local authorities of England created nine new unitary authorities (UAs). This included Central Bedfordshire unitary authority which was formed from Mid-Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire district councils. This is reflected in the table.

Sources:

Basic state pension:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample. The figures have been adjusted in line with the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pension credit:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Poverty

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the change has been in the number of (1) adults of working age in households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income estimated *(a)* before and *(b)* after housing costs between 1996-97 and the latest year for which figures are available; [322152]

(2) pensioners in households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income estimated *(a)* before and *(b)* after housing costs between 1996-97 and the latest year for which figures are available; [322153]

(3) children living in households with below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income estimated *(a)* before and *(b)* after housing costs between 1996-97 and the latest year for which figures are available. [322154]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* The Government strongly believe that the best way to tackle adult poverty is through work. Those in work in the long term are better off than on benefits as training, promotion and career opportunities can enable many workers to attain a better standard of living for themselves and their families. We are therefore placing an increased priority on helping all groups of people, including disabled people and those with health conditions, lone parents and long term unemployed people get into rewarding and sustainable jobs.

Relative working age poverty (BHC) has increased over the last decade. However the risk of poverty for working age adults is still below that for children or pensioners (15 per cent. as compared with 23 per cent. for both children and pensioners) and the risk of persistent poverty for this group is also lower than average at 7 per cent. For this reason the Government have targeted additional financial support on families with children and pensioners.

However, the Government remain committed to ensuring employment and opportunity for all and believe that work, for those who can, remains the best and most sustainable route out of poverty. Over the last decade we have improved the gains to work with the introduction of the national minimum wage and the extension of tax credits and we have invested in employment support to ensure people are not written off. The Government are also supporting people through the difficult economic climate, setting aside £5 billion to help people back into work.

The Government's declared aim is to eradicate child poverty by 2020. Our determination to do so is as firm as ever and this is demonstrated by introducing the Child Poverty Bill. The Child Poverty Bill will bring new impetus to eradicating child poverty by 2020. It will provide a definition of success and sets a framework to guarantee that Government and their partners at national and local levels make a clear and vital contribution towards ending child poverty.

Between 1998-99 and 2007-08 some 500,000 children were lifted out of relative poverty. Measures announced in and since Budget 2007 are expected to lift around a further 550,000 children out of poverty. Absolute poverty has been halved.

Addressing pensioner poverty has been a priority for this Government. We have targeted help on the poorest pensioners, those who need it most, while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

We have made good progress in tackling pensioner poverty. Targeted support, such as pension credit and additional funding for all pensioners has contributed to 900,000 fewer pensioners in relative poverty (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs) in 2007-08 than in 1998-99.

The available information is given in the table.

The latest available information covers 2007-08. Figures covering the UK are most commonly used. However,

for 1996-97, only information for Great Britain is available. This means the changes in the numbers of various groups below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income between 1996-97 and 2007-08 can only be calculated for Great Britain.

Change between 1996-97 and 2007-08 in the numbers of working-age adults, pensioners and children in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of median incomes and proportion of working-age adults, pensioners and children in such households in 2007-08, before housing costs (BHC) and after housing costs (AHC), Great Britain (millions)

	Children		Working-age adults		Pensioners	
	BHC	AHC	BHC	AHC	BHC	AHC
Change 1996-97 to 2007-08 (millions)	-0.6	-0.5	+0.4	+0.5	0.0	-0.9
Proportion of group in low income households in 2007-08 (per cent.)	23	31	15	21	23	18

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on households below average income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey. Both of these documents are available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years.
4. These statistics cover Great Britain only as figures are only available covering the United Kingdom from 1998-99.
5. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
6. For the households below average income series, incomes have been equivalised using organisation for economic co-operation and development equivalisation factors.
7. The number of working-age adults, pensioners and children have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand individuals.

Source:
Households Below Average Income, DWP.

Poverty: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of *(a)* the general population, *(b)* children and *(c)* pensioners in Leeds North West constituency were living in poverty in each year since 1997. [322704]

Helen Goodman: The Government strongly believe that the best way to tackle poverty is through work. Those in work in the long term are better off than on benefits as training, promotion and career opportunities can enable many workers to attain a better standard of living for themselves and their families. We are therefore placing an increased priority on helping all groups of people, including disabled people and those with health conditions, lone parents and long-term unemployed people get into rewarding and sustainable jobs.

The Government's declared aim are to eradicate child poverty by 2020. Our determination to do so is as firm as ever and this is demonstrated by introducing the Child Poverty Bill. The Child Poverty Bill will bring new impetus to eradicating child poverty by 2020. It will provide a definition of success and sets a framework to guarantee that Government and their partners at national and local levels make a clear and vital contribution towards ending child poverty.

Between 1998-99 and 2007-08 some 500,000 children were lifted out of relative poverty. Measures announced in and since Budget 2007 are expected to lift around a further 550,000 children out of poverty. Absolute poverty has been halved.

Addressing pensioner poverty has been a priority for this Government. We have targeted help on the poorest pensioners, those who need it most, while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

With the help of targeted support and additional funding there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty (after housing costs) in 2007-08 than in 1998-99.

Estimates of poverty, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in poverty at Government office region level. Therefore, information for Leeds North East is not available, though figures relating to the Yorkshire and Humberside Government office region are.

Poverty for all individuals is presented both before and after housing costs. Child poverty is presented before housing costs and pensioner poverty is presented after housing costs, in line with the relevant public service agreements. The most commonly used figures relate to those with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income for the three groups.

Three-year averages are used to report regional statistics as single-year estimates are subject to volatility. Figures are quoted rounded to the nearest percentage point. The percentage of all individuals, children and pensioners in the Yorkshire and Humberside Government office region who have incomes below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income is in the following tables.

Proportion of individuals in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median for the Yorkshire and Humberside Government office region, before and after housing costs

	Proportion of individuals (Percentage)	
Period	Before housing costs	After housing costs
1997-98 to 1999-2000	24	27
1998-99 to 2000-01	23	26
1999-2000 to 2001-02	22	25
2000-01 to 2002-03	21	24
2001-02 to 2003-04	20	24
2002-03 to 2004-05	19	22
2003-04 to 2005-06	19	22
2004-05 to 2006-07	19	21
2005-06 to 2007-08	20	22

Proportion of children in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median for the Yorkshire and Humberside Government office region, before housing costs

Period	Proportion of children (Percentage)
1997-98 to 1999-2000	32
1998-99 to 2000-01	30
1999-2000 to 2001-02	29
2000-01 to 2002-03	27
2001-02 to 2003-04	26
2002-03 to 2004-05	25
2003-04 to 2005-06	25
2004-05 to 2006-07	25
2005-06 to 2007-08	26

Proportion of pensioners in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median for the Yorkshire and Humberside Government office region, after housing costs

Period	*Proportion of pensioners (Percentage)*
1997-98 to 1999-2000	32
1998-99 to 2000-01	31
1999-2000 to 2001-02	29
2000-01 to 2002-03	26
2001-02 to 2003-04	24
2002-03 to 2004-05	20
2003-04 to 2005-06	17
2004-05 to 2006-07	17
2005-06 to 2007-08	18

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. The figures are based on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development equivalisation factors.
6. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are.
7. Proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

A local child poverty indicator—including constituency level information—has been developed that captures the number and proportion of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits, or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent. of median income. Details can be found via the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm

The measure enables local partners to make an assessment of the level and geographical distribution of income deprivation in their area and focuses local partners on taking action to help raise family incomes.

Power Stations: Safety

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department has assessed the relative levels of mortality among employees at *(a)* coal combustion, *(b)* gas combustion, *(c)* nuclear fission and *(d)* biomass combustion plants in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [323635]

Jonathan Shaw: No. The Health and Safety Executive has informed me that assessment of the relative levels of mortality among employees at such facilities has not been made.

Sellafield: Safety

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the mortality rate was among employees at the nuclear processing site of Sellafield, Cumbria, in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [323636]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been informed that mortality data on employees is not available to the Health and Safety Executive in the format requested.

Studies published at intervals by others provide summary information on the mortality experience of Sellafield employees compared to that of the general population, and in relation to radiation exposure. These studies have shown that the overall mortality of Sellafield employees has been better than that of the general population with which they have been compared. However, when the mortality of those specifically exposed to radiation has been studied in relation to the radiation dose they have received it shows the expected pattern of increasing risk of various cancers with increasing radiation exposure.

Social Security Benefits

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age, *(c)* disabled people and *(d)* people of all ages received income-related benefits (i) in May 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available; and what the monetary value of such benefits for each group was at each of those dates. [322122]

Helen Goodman: The benefit system aims to tackle poverty by providing support for various groups of people: pensioners; unemployed people; lone parents; sick and disabled people; and renters and home owners. It also provides help for the extra costs that disabled people face; and support for carers.

Means tested benefits support people whose income and capital are below a prescribed level. It guarantees a minimum level of income for people who are either looking for work or are not required to actively seek work because of age, ill health, disability or caring responsibilities. The amount of benefit a person gets depends on their needs ("applicable amount") and takes into account any other income (including other benefits) or capital.

The information is not available in the format requested; the available information is in the tables.

Table 1: Income support (IS) and income based jobseeker's allowance (JSA(IB)) claimants—Great Britain May 1997 and August 2009

	May 1997	*August 2009*
IS (non-MIG)	2,263,700	1,955,330
Of which:		
Receive IS disability premium	836,200	1,095,870
JSA (IB)	1,181,100	1,055,800

Notes:
1. Income support minimum income guarantee (MIG) claimants aged 60 and over transferred to pension credit in October 2003, for easier comparison May 1997 claimants over 60 have been excluded from the IS figure above and shown along with pension credit claimants. August 2009 figures include a very small number of residual MIG claimants who did not transfer to pension credit.
2. Figures for May 1997 IS/JSA (IB) have been uprated using 5 per cent. proportions against 100 per cent. WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Figures for August 2009 IS are taken from 100 per cent. data and rounded to the nearest 10.
4. JSA(IB) Benefit Type—The benefit type is defined as pay status at the caseload date —this may differ from the status at the start or end of the claim.
5. JSA(IB) includes a small number of claimants with both contributory based and income based entitlement.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) Information Directorate, 100 per cent., 5 per cent. samples.

Table 2: Employment and support allowance income based (ESA (IB)) claimants—Great Britain August 2009

	Total	Under 60	60-65
ESA(IB)	190,380	186,480	3,900

Notes:
1. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. ESA (IB) Benefit Type—The benefit type is defined as pay status at the caseload date—this may differ from the status at the start or end of the claim.
4. ESA (IB) includes a small number of claimants with both contributory based and income based entitlement. 5. It is possible for a claimant aged over pension age to claim ESA for a limited period. Therefore age groups for caseload and off flows include a small proportion of claimants aged 65.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).

Table 3: Pension credit / income support (aged 60 and over) claimants in Great Britain as at May 1997 and August 2009

	IS claimants May 1997	Pension credit August 2009
Total	1,739,100	2,737,290

Notes:
1. Pension credit figure is rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has also been applied. Income support (IS) figures are based on 5 per cent. data and uprated against 100 per cent. WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced minimum income guarantee (income support for people aged 60 or over). The vast majority of people who were previously in receipt of the minimum income guarantee transferred to pension credit in October 2003. These pension credit statistics are produced on a different basis to the early estimates. The latter are more timely but operational processing times mean that a number of claim commencements and terminations are not reflected in them.
3. These data represent all claimants as this benefit is not paid to anyone aged under 60.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).

Table 4: Housing benefit and council tax benefit claimants by age in Great Britain as at May 1997 and August 2009

	Total	Aged under 60	Aged 60 and over
May 1977			
Housing benefit	4,639,000	2,786,000	1,853,000
Of which:			
Receive a disability premium		709,000	—
Council tax benefit	5,498,000	2,853,000	2,646,000
Of which:			
Receive a disability premium		781,000	—
August 2009			
Housing benefit	4,494,560	2,957,630	1,535,960
Of which:			
Receive a disability premium		—	—
Council tax benefit	5,519,390	2,931,800	2,586,710
Of which:			
Receive a disability premium		—	—

Notes:
1. The May 1997 figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. August 2009 figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, May 1997 figures to the nearest thousand.
4. Council tax benefit figures exclude any single adult rebate cases.
5. Single housing benefit extract (SHBE) is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and November 2009 is the most recent available. To be consistent with other benefits August data is shown.
6. There will be overlaps in data between housing benefit and council tax Benefit, and between housing benefit and council tax benefit and other benefits.
7. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when the claimant starts working full time, works more hours or earns more money.
8. "—" denotes not available. The breakdown from the 1997 1 per cent. sample is by client group, there is no breakdown available of disabled within the pension client group. Breakdown by disability is not available on SHBE.
9. Comparison of these figures should be treated with caution due to the sampling variation in the May 1997 data.
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)—August 2009. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System. Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken from May 1997.

Table 5: Benefit expenditure

£ million

	1997-98		2008-09	
	Nominal terms	Real terms	Nominal terms	Real terms
Pensioners				
Income support for people age 60 and over / minimum income guarantee / pension credit	3,721	4,940	7,794	7,950
Housing benefit and discretionary housing payments	3,781	5,019	5,570	5,681
Council tax benefit	1,080	1,433	2,163	2,206
Total	8,582	11,392	15,526	15,837
Working age				
Income support for under 60s	6,094	8,090	7,148	7,291
Jobseeker's allowance—income-based	3,088	4,100	2,129	2,172
Employment and support allowance—income based	0	0	63	64
Housing benefit and discretionary housing payments	7,396	9,818	11,554	11,785

Table 5: Benefit expenditure

£ million

	1997-98		2008-09	
	Nominal terms	*Real terms*	*Nominal terms*	*Real terms*
Council tax benefit	1,315	1,746	2,072	2,113
Total	17,894	23,753	22,966	23,425
Of which disabled				
Income support	2,809	3,729	4,616	4,709
Housing benefit	1,782	2,366	4,244	4,329
Council tax benefit	367	487	870	887
All ages				
Income support all ages including pension credit and minimum income guarantee	9,815	13,030	14,942	15,241
Jobseeker's allowance—income based	3,088	4,100	2,129	2,172
Employment and support allowance—income based	0	0	63	64
Housing benefit	11,177	14,837	17,123	17,466
Council tax benefit	2,395	3,179	4,235	4,319
Total	26,475	35,145	38,492	39,262

Notes:
1. For consistency figures exclude child elements of income support and jobseeker's allowance, which have now mostly been replaced by child tax credit payments administered by HM Revenue & Customs.
2. Expenditure on disabled people is for working age only, based on receipt of disability premium in the income-related benefits. Such information for pensioners is not available, as there is no equivalent premium in pension credit.
3. Because of changes in data sources figures for housing benefit and council tax benefit may not be completely consistent between 1997-98 and 2007-08.
4. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
DWP Accounting Data.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of applications for *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance to be approved in each of the next five years. [322157]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* In line with HM Treasury convention, forecasts of benefit expenditure and related volumes are not published beyond the current spending review period. Information on the estimated and forecast number of new awards for attendance allowance and disability living allowance in 2009-10 and 2010-11 is contained in the table.

The figures should not be seen as indicative of the total claimant count estimates for disability living allowance or attendance allowance over the same period as they do not account for off-flows.

Estimate of numbers of new awards for disability living allowance and attendance allowance in 2009-10 and 2010-11

	Disability living allowance	*Attendance allowance*
2009-10	277,000	327,000
2010-11	279,000	330,000

Notes:
1. Estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000.
2. Estimates in the table include new awards only. It does not include the number of renewal claims likely to be successful as these people are already claiming the benefits and this information is not estimated separately.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Statistical data and Pre-Budget Report forecasts

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average monetary value of *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance paid to claimants under special rules was in the latest period for which figures are available. [322164]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following tables.

Average weekly amount in payment for disability living allowance special rules cases in payment at August 2009

	£
All	117.05

Average weekly amount in payment for attendance allowance special rules cases in payment at August 2009

	£
All	70.35

Note:
All recipients under special rules are entitled to the higher rate care component.

Caution:
The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5 per cent. sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100 per cent. total for the benefit. The figures have been rated to agree with Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study totals.

Source:
Work and Pensions Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample

Sweet Concepts

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer by the Cabinet Office Minister of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 156W, on Central Office of Information: marketing, what promotional products were purchased from Sweet Concepts Ltd. on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive; and at what cost. [324302]

Jonathan Shaw: In 2006, the Health and Safety Executive purchased through COI tea bags with a campaign strapline "take a moment not a fall" printed on the outside of the packet at a cost of £6,610 plus VAT from Sweet Concepts Ltd. These items were part of a nationally co-ordinated publicity, education and inspection campaign about the risks of working at height. The target audience were people involved in building and plant maintenance. The idea behind the tea bag was to promote discussions around safe working practices at workers' break time.

Winter Fuel Payments: Greater Manchester

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the City of Manchester and *(b)* Manchester Central constituency have received a winter fuel payment since introduction of the scheme. [324885]

Angela Eagle: Information relating to winter fuel payments for the winters of 1997-98 and 1998-99 is not available. The information on individual payments made from winter 1999-2000 is in the following table.

	Manchester local authority	*Manchester central constituency*
1999-2000	60,870	11,810
2000-01	64,365	12,560
2001-02	63,355	12,370
2002-03	62,640	12,295
2003-04	61,950	12,160
2004-05	60,085	11,795
2005-06	59,310	11,660
2006-07	58,870	11,560
2007-08	59,350	11,650
2008-09	59,790	11,700

Notes:
1. Figures up to 2004-05 are rounded to the nearest five
2. Figures from 2005-06 onwards are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Local authorities and parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:
Information Directorate 100 per cent. data.

Work Capability Assessment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the highest and lowest salaries were paid to *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses on (i) part-time and (ii) full-time contracts by Atos Healthcare for the purpose of undertaking incapacity benefit and/or employment and support allowance assessments under her Department's contract with Atos Origin in each of the past five years; and if she will make a statement. [324313]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP do not hold any information regarding the amounts paid to Atos Healthcare staff.

The setting of salaries is a matter between the provider and their employees.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average number of days worked by *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses employed on part-time contracts by Atos Healthcare for the purpose of undertaking incapacity benefit and/or employment and support allowance assessments was under her Department's contract with Atos Origin in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [324314]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average salary paid to *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time contracted (i) doctors and (ii) nurses by Atos Healthcare for the purpose of undertaking incapacity benefit and/or employment and support allowance assessments was under her Department's contract with Atos Origin in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [324315]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP do not hold any information regarding the amounts paid to Atos Healthcare staff.

The setting of salaries is a matter between the provider and their employees.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed (i) part-time and (ii) full-time by Atos Healthcare for the purpose of undertaking incapacity benefit and/or employment and support allowance assessments under her Department's contract with Atos Origin in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [324316]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is as follows:

(a) (i) The number of contracted (sessional) part-time doctors employed by Atos Healthcare is as follows:

End February 2010—644

End February 2009—758

End February 2008—880

End February 2007—978

Please note that not all contracted doctors will undertake ESA/IB assessments—however at February 2010 there were 539 who were.

(a) (ii) The number of doctors who are full-time medical advisers (FTMA's) employed by Atos Healthcare for the completion of ESA/IB medical assessments expressed as full-time equivalents.

End February 2010—242

End February 2009—239

End February 2008—243

End February 2007—240

Full-time equivalents are those doctors who work directly for Atos Healthcare but may have different working patterns.

(b) (i) There are no nurses employed by Atos Healthcare as contracted (sessional) nurses.

(b) (ii) The number of nurses employed by Atos Healthcare for the completion of ESA/IB medical assessments expressed as full-time equivalents.

End February 2010—265

End February 2009—181

End February 2008—104

End February 2007—41

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Asylum

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking with the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to improve the humanitarian situation in the camps for Rohingya refugees on the Bangladesh-Burma border. [324136]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We have raised the plight of the Rohinygas and their status with the Government of Bangladesh, both bilaterally and in concert with EU partners. Most recently, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Worcester (Mr. Foster), raised the conditions of the Rohingyas in the camps with the Minister for the Environment and Forests during a meeting in London on 17 March. Officials from the British High Commission in Dhaka, including the High Commissioner, have visited the camps for displaced Rohingyas. Officials also held discussions with representatives from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 15 March in Dhaka.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to provide assistance for Rohingya refugees in camps on the Bangladesh-Burma border. [324161]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: UK support is channelled through our central contributions to the European Commission and United Nations agencies. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) manages the official camps. UNICEF, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Population Fund also work with the refugees within the camps or in the surrounding communities. The European Commission is providing financial support.

We have raised the plight of the Rohinygas and their status with the Government of Bangladesh, both bilaterally and in concert with EU partners. Officials from the British High Commission in Dhaka, including the High Commissioner, have visited the camps for displaced Rohingyas.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department allocates to the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in respect of the WWF Global Forest and Trade Network. [324630]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not allocate funding to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in respect of the WWF Global Forest and Trade network.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many smoking shelters have been built for his Department's staff in the last five years; and at what cost. [324361]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has built one smoking shelter, in the last five years, at their office in East Kilbride, Glasgow at a cost of £753.27.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324423]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) created a small staff gymnasium in our office in East Kilbride in October 2005. This was part of a wider refurbishment project and the costs of the gymnasium cannot be separately identified. The gymnasium in our London office was redecorated in October 2009 at a cost of £2,589. There has been no other expenditure in our UK offices over the last five years on rooms provided for staff leisure.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324558]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides subsidised gym facilities in both our UK offices.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 720W, on departmental information officers, what the *(a)* title and *(b)* division is of each of the embedded communicator posts. [324399]

Mr. Michael Foster: The following posts include embedded communications staff employed primarily in a communications role outside the central communications unit at the Department for International Development (DFID).

	Department	*Title*
1.	Evaluation Department	Communications Adviser
2.	Human Resources Division	Internal Communications and E-Content Manager
3.	Knowledge and Information Management Team	Change and Communications Manager
4.	Information Systems Department	Communications Specialist
5.	Country programmes - Africa Division	Head of Communications, Africa
6.	Country programmes -Africa Division	Communications Officer
7.	Ghana Country Office	Communications and Information Manager
3.	Kenya and Somalia Country Office	Communications Officer
9	Malawi Country Office	Strategic Communications Officer

	Department	Title
10.	Mozambique Country Office	Communications Officer
11.	Rwanda Country Office	Communications and IT Officer
12.	South African Country Office	Communications Adviser
13.	Tanzania Country Office	Media and Communications Adviser
14	Uganda Country Office	Head of Communications
15.	Country programmes - Middle East, Caribbean, Asia and British Overseas Territories	Head of Communications, MECAB
16.	Country programmes - South Asia Strategy and Operations	Head of Communications, SASO
17.	Afghanistan Country Office	Press Officer
13.	Afghanistan Country Office	Communications Manager
19.	India Country Office	Communications Adviser
20.	India Country Office	External Communications and Press Officer
21.	Nepal Country Office	Communications Manager
22.	Pakistan Country Office	Communications Officer
23.	Pakistan Country Office	Head of Communications and Policy Support
24.	Policy and Research Department	Head of Policy and Research Communications
25.	Policy and Research Department	PRD Communications Team Leader
26.	Policy and Research Department	GIG, Food and Agriculture Adviser
27.	Policy and Research Department	E Communications Manager
28.	Policy and Research Department	Online Communications
29.	Policy and Research Department	Internal Communications, Planning, Publications
30.	Policy and Research Department	Head of Communications and Secretariat
31.	Policy and Research Department	Communications Manager
32.	Policy and Research Department	Communications Manager- Climate Change
33.	Policy and Research Department	Communications Adviser
34.	International Directorate - Director's Office	Strategic Communications Adviser
35.	International Directorate - Europe Department	Senior Communications Officer
36.	Stabilisation Unit	Strategic Communications Adviser

This does not include other staff who have the status of embedded communicators, but who work primarily on non-communications functions or technical support.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1414W, on departmental temporary staff, how much was paid to *(a)* Manpower, *(b)* Margaret Hodge and *(c)* Josephine Sammons for services relating to the recruitment of temporary staff in each of the last three years. [324366]

Mr. Michael Foster: Our records show that the following amounts were paid to Manpower, Margaret Hodge and Josephine Sammons for services relating to the recruitment of temporary staff in the last three financial years.

£

	2009-10[1]	*2008-09*	*2007-08*
Manpower	120,618	77,413	4,438
Margaret Hodge	223,679	305,299	213,993
Josephine Sammons	5,414	30,178	222,822

[1] Financial year 2009-10 up to 24 March 2010.

Indonesia: Climate Change

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what conditions are attached to the £50 million funding to Indonesia announced in Davos on 29 January 2010 to help fight climate change by tackling deforestation; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure that these funds are not used by the palm oil industry. [324629]

Mr. Thomas: None of the £50 million will go to oil palm companies. DFID hopes to build on work the UK has begun with the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) to agree credible environmental production standards and to secure their use by both producers and buyers. This could involve funding the RSPO itself, academic institutions supporting it and associated NGO networks. DFID expects that most of the funding will support programmes managed by organisations such as the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, Oxfam, Transparency International and local non-government organisations who have rigorous auditing and accounting procedures and employ anti-corruption safeguards.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the amount of charitable fundraising carried out in the UK for humanitarian purposes in Gaza via the Union of Good. [325030]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department of International Development (DFID) has not made an assessment of the amount of charitable fundraising carried out in the UK for humanitarian purposes in Gaza via the Union of Good.

The Union of Good is not a registered charity in the UK.

Sierra Leone: Overseas Aid

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department has funded in Sierra Leone since 2000; and how much his Department has spent on each. [324082]

Mr. Thomas: Details of projects funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) in Sierra Leone from 2004 onwards can be found on the DFID website at:

http://projects.dfid.gov.uk/

Projects from the beginning of 2000 until mid-2004 are provided in the following table with individual commitment figures. Precise expenditure figures could be extracted from historic data only at disproportionate cost.

Project title	*Start date*	*Commitment (£)*
Budget Support for Government of Sierra Leone 2000	26 January 2000	5,500,000
Police: Training for Public Order Activities	1 February 2000	650,000
Media project with Government of Sierra Leone: Redesign Team	1 February 2000	11,000
Budget Support and debt relief—2000-01	1 March 2000	24,555,000
Short wave transmitter: Peace Building	1 March 2000	127,000
Budget Support 2000—Technical Cooperation Component	1 March 2000	41,000
Primary Health Care, Bo District	25 April 2000	632,000
Government of Sierra Leone Budget Planning	26 May 2000	303,000
Post Peace Radio Equipment	30 May 2000	256,000
Campaign for Good Governance	30 May 2000	195,000
Emergency Seeds and Tools Assistance	31 May 2000	487,000
Humanitarian Assistance to the Sierra Leone Police Force	31 May 2000	350,000
Police Project Community Safety 6 Year programme	1 June 2000	27,148,000
Water, Sanitation and Shelter	27 July 2000	190,000
Integrated Community Environment and Agriculture project	4 September 2000	85,000
National Workshop Emergency Watsan and Shelter Response CARE INTERNATIONAL	11 September 2000	50,000
Newly Displaced people	1 October 2000	302,000
Emergency Healthcare Response Programme	9 October 2000	291,000
Sierra Leone Anti Corruption Commission Project: 8 Year Project	1 November 2000	5,545,000
UK/EL) engineering Technical Support	1 November 2000	500,000
Government of Sierra Leone: Medium Term Expenditure Framework	1 November 2000	87,000
Refurbishment MoD HQ Paramount Hotel Technical Cooperation	29 November 2000	100,000
ICRC Sierra Leone Programme	21 December 2000	2,000,000
Conciliation Resources	31 January 2001	76,000
Social Development coordinator	1 February 2001	71,000
Support to Demobilisation Process 98	1 February 2001	60,000
Government Assistance Programme: British Council Project	13 February 2001	1,277,000
Budget Bureau—Stuart Kane	26 February 2001	60,000
Community Development Initiative Pujehun: 5 Year project	1 March 2001	14,400,000
Transition to Development: Refugee camps water/Sanitation	1 March 2001	850,000
Refurbishment Ministry of Defence HQ Paramount Hotel	14 March 2001	1,024,000
UK Contribution UNICEF	30 March 2001	1,000,000
Adult literacy training	30 March 2001	4,000
Technical assistance to National Commission-Reconstruction Rehabilitation Reintegration	1 April 2001	290,000
International Medical Corps: health care in Disarmament Demobilisation Reintegration centres	1 April 2001	150,000
Debt Recording and Management system project	1 April 2001	8,000
Mercy Ships: New Steps	20 April 2001	111,000
Medical Research Centre Tonkolili	26 April 2001	1,195,000
Media Development Project: Training	21 May 2001	800,000
Support to Ferry	29 May 2001	10,000
Assist Nat Commission Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration	1 June 2001	45,000
Budget Support to Gov of Sierra Leone 2001-04	1 August 2001	30,000,000
Governance Reform Secretariat Phase 1: 7 Year Programme	8 August 2001	4,050,000
Strategy for the diamond producing areas	21 August 2001	440,000
World Bank Country Profile	28 November 2001	19,000
Budget support to Gov of Sierra Leone 2001-2004	19 February 2002	400,000

Project title	Start date	Commitment (£)
Second Governance and Corruption Survey	13 March 2002	155,000
UNICEF Water/sanitation	26 March 2002	500,000
ICRC Resettlement, Internally Displaced Peoples	26 March 2002	500,000
WHO—Health sector, Internally Displaced People Needs	26 March 2002	100,000
Post Flood Seed Distribution	10 April 2002	75,000
Sierra Leone: UNDP: Junior Programme Officer	22 April 2002	194,000
GTZ: ReAct: Programme in Kono and Kailahun: 3 Year project	31 May 2002	3,350,000
Promoting Peace, Security and Stability in Sierra Leone	1 June 2002	747,000
Chiefdom Governance Review	26 June 2002	45,000
Support to Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys	2 July 2002	290,000
Merlin Medical Research Centre	29 August 2002	50,000
Social Development	19 September 2002	40,000
Establishing access to emergency primary health Merlin Kono	1 October 2002	563,000
Civil Society Strategy	1 October 2002	103,000
Internally Displaced People Resettlement Programme	1 October 2002	50,000
CARE: Food Security Rights-Based Approach	1 November 2002	232,000
Social Development Adviser FREETOWN	20 November 2002	70,000
Decentralisation & Local Government	1 December 2002	500,000
100% Debt Relief for Sierra Leone to UK's ECGD	1 January 2003	500,000
Sexual Assault. Referral. Centres. (SARC)	4 February 2003	921,000
Operation PEBU: Housing and sanitation: 5 year project	1 March 2003	4,000,000
Liberian and Ivorian Refugees	20 March 2003	600,000
ICRC APPEAL 2003 Sierra Leone	20 March 2003	500,000
Care of Liberian Refugees	20 March 2003	500,000
Control of Vaccine Preventable Diseases	20 Mar 2003	400,000
Improve Participation in Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper	31 March 2003	1,362,000
Local Government Elections	1 June 2003	4,100,000
Phase V Health Care Tonkolili	11 July 2003	423,000
Support of Civil Society Good Governance and Human Rights	22 August 2003	741,000
Judges and Prosecutor	1 October 2003	350,000
Investment Environment	19 January 2004	23,000
Support to Improved Services	1 March 2004	50,000
UNICEF Malaria Prevention	17 March 2004	400,000
UNICEF Immunisation Programme	18 March 2004	500,000
UNHCR Assistance to Liberian Refugees	18 March 2004	400,000
Civil and Political Rights	19 March 2004	350,000
ICRC APPEAL 2004 Sierra Leone	19 March 2004	200,000
Oxfam GB's Women in Leadership	29 March 2004	171,000
Youth Empowerment Programme: 5 Year programme	1 April 2004	1,159,000
Merlin Lassa Emergency Funds	13 May 2004	103,000
Community Development Programme	1 June 2004	111,000

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department has made to reducing the level of female genital mutilation in Sierra Leone in the last five years. [324083]

Mr. Thomas: We are providing £16 million over three years specifically to improve the reproductive health of women in Sierra Leone.

In Sierra Leone the Department for International Development (DFID) has developed a Gender Action Plan to track its performance on a quarterly basis. The action plan has five key gender indicators, including the establishment of an informed public debate on female genital mutilation. We have been working closely with the World Bank, EU and African Development Bank to promote this discussion along with improving our joint work on gender issues more broadly. DFID has also collaborated with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to organise a forum with civil society counterparts on female genital mutilation in Sierra Leone.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided to the Social Welfare Ministry in Sierra Leone in the last 12 months. [324084]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not provided direct financial support to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA) in the last 12 months. DFID is supporting the International Rescue Committee UK (IRC UK) which is working closely with MSWGCA to implement the 2007 Gender Acts in Sierra Leone. Over the last 12 months IRC has spent £8,000 in UK aid on activities in direct support of the Ministry. As a condition of receiving assistance all NGOs including IRC have to submit annual audited statements as well as quarterly financial and reports.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms exist for *(a)* parents and *(b)* staff to submit complaints about the operation of academies. [324350]

Mr. Coaker: Academies are required by the independent school standards regulations to have a complaints procedure which must be available on request to parents. The procedure must provide for complaints to be managed within clear time scales. If initial informal consideration does not resolve the complaint, then the procedure must also include steps to escalate a complaint through both a formal written stage and, if necessary, a hearing before a panel that includes at least one member who is independent of the academy.

If the complaint cannot be resolved at school level from the 1 April 2010, the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) will be the next route of redress. The YPLA will review the evidence provided by the complainant and the academy to determine if the academy has followed its own complaints procedure or is in breach of a contractual or statutory obligation. If the academy has not followed its procedures or obligations it will be asked to do so to rectify any failings.

Ultimately a complaint can be referred to the Secretary of State on the grounds that a governing body is acting or proposing to act unreasonably or on the grounds that either has failed to discharge its duties. The same procedure as stated above also applies to staff who want to complain about academies.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what budgetary provision he has made for the Young People's Learning Agency to offer *(a)* support and *(b)* challenge of academies in 2010-11. [324847]

Mr. Coaker: Provision has been made for £6.3 million to both support and challenge academies in financial year 2010-11, through School Improvement Partners, National Challenge Advisers, other education advisers and support delivered through the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. In addition some academies will receive National Challenge funding in the same way that maintained schools do. These budgets will be held with the Department for Children, Schools and Families until the function for educational support and challenge of open academies transfers to the Young People's Learning Agency in September 2010.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the total cost to each local education partnership of all completed Building Schools for the Future projects. [322854]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* Information about the total cost to each local education partnership of all completed major building projects within the Building Schools for the Future programme is set out in the following table. The information has been provided for those projects where actual costs are available. Estimated figures have not been provided for those projects where figures have not been validated.

Local authority	*School*	*Total project cost (£)*
Bradford	Titus Salt School	26,082,591
Bradford	Tong High School	30,045,100
Bradford	Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College	28,272,307
Bristol	Bristol Brunei Academy	24,908,803
Bristol	Brislington Enterprise College	32,517,689
Bristol	Bristol Metropolitan College	24,748,262
Bristol	The Bridge Learning Campus	[1]
Durham	Durham Johnston	[1]
Hackney	Stoke Newington School (Phase 1)	[1]
Hackney	Clapton Girls Technology College	[1]
Haringey	John Loughborough	4,374,308
Haringey	Highgate Wood Secondary School	4,901,300
Haringey	Alexandra Park School	3,767,500
Haringey	Gladesmore Community School	11,000,100
Haringey	Hornsey School for Girls	4,884,500
Haringey	Park View Academy	12,818,100
Haringey	Northumberland Park Community School	16,548,600
Islington	Holloway School	[1]
Islington	Highbury Grove + New Sixth Form	29,682,442
Islington	Samuel Rhodes SEN School	7,801,212
Kent	Dane Court School	20,257,678
Kent	The Community College Whitstable	15,709,175
Kent	Northfleet School for Girls (phase 1)	16,896,846
Kent	St. George's Church of England Foundation School (phase 1)	21,632,574
Knowsley	All Saints Centre for Learning	22,717,419
Knowsley	St. Edmunds Arrowsmith Centre for Learning	22,756,312
Knowsley	Huyton Arts and Sports Centre for Learning	24,270,537
Knowsley	Knowsley Park Centre for Learning - serving Prescot, Whitson and the wider community	22,554,109
Knowsley	Kirkby Sports College	23,318,863

Local authority	School	Total project cost (£)
Knowsley	Christ the King Catholic and Church of England Centre for Learning	21,544,188
Knowsley	Halewood Centre for Learning	25,907,121
Lambeth	Stockwell Park	27,405,971
Lambeth	Elm Court Special School	8,594,996
Lambeth	Park Campus	6,453,801
Lambeth	The Michael Tippett School	7,314,003
Lambeth	Elmgreen School (temporary accommodation)	25,019,726
Lancashire	Sir John Thursby Community College	33,520,972
Lancashire	Burnley Campus (Thomas Whitham Sixth Form)	31,443,101
Lancashire	Pendle Vale Campus	29,110,960
Lancashire	Shuttleworth College	18,086,760
Leeds	Swallow Hill Community College	30,082,904
Leeds	Allerton Grange	28,010,373
Leeds	Cockburn College of Arts	[1]—
Leeds	Allerton High School	23,473,509
Leeds	Pudsey Grangefield School	21,992,309
Leeds	Rodillian School	27,854,391
Leeds	Temple Moor High School	[1]—
Leeds	Crawshaw	[1]—
Leicester	Soar Valley College	20,870,870
Leicester	Judgemeadow Community College	15,977,428
Leicester	Beaumont Leys	14,098,418
Leicester	Fullhurst Community College	11,887,293
Lewisham	Catford	19,891,414
Lewisham	Sedgehill	36,978,754
Liverpool	Lower Lee SEN School	[1]—
Manchester	Enterprise Academy	[1]—
Manchester	Health Academy	[1]—
Manchester	Our Lady's RC Sports College (Higher Blackley Education Village)	[1]—
Manchester	St. Matthews RC High School	[1]—
Manchester	Newall Green High School	15,750,974
Manchester	Gorton Education Village	21,972,628
Manchester	St. Paul's and Piper Hill	22,707,211
Manchester	Gorton Education Village (Melland High School)	[1]—
Manchester	Meade Hill (Part of Higher Blackley Education Village)	[1]—
Manchester	Buglawton Hall	[1]—
Newcastle	Kenton School	34,182,913
Newcastle	Benfield School (phase 1 of refurb)	11,950,826
Newcastle	Walbottle Campus Technology College	34,892,016
Newcastle	Thomas Bewick (Previous PFI delivered by LEP)	9,342,697
Newham	Brampton Manor School	8,499,260
Nottingham	Big Wood	19,204,412
Nottingham	Hadden Park High School (phase 1)	11,975,940
Sheffield	Yewlands Technology College (two phases)	19,010,769
Sheffield	Talbot Special School	12,032,641
Sheffield	Newfield Secondary School	24,665,265
Sheffield	Silverdale Secondary School	27,034,073
Solihull	Archbishop Grimshaw Catholic School	22,313,974
Solihull	Smith's Wood	23,941,041
Solihull	Park Hall School	22,288,417
Solihull	Lanchester School	8,637,217
South Tyneside	Mortimer Community College	10,165,175
South Tyneside	Jarrow School	17,513,966
Sunderland	Red House Academy	[1]—
Sunderland	Castle View Enterprise Academy	[1]—
Sunderland	Academy 360	[1]—
Sunderland	Washington School	[1]—
Waltham Forest	Walthamstow School for Girls	18,231,000
Waltham Forest	Frederick Bremer	20,061,000
Waltham Forest	Kelmscott School	11,115,000
Westminster	Westminster City Boys	14,818,603
Westminster	St. Marylebone CE	17,155,000
Westminster	Pimlico	33,286,000

[1] Total project cost awaiting validation

The total project cost includes all elements that go into the construction of a school building. This includes: the cost of the building; the fixed and loose furniture and equipment; cost incurred to the building beyond the designer's control; external works; contractor's preliminaries; professional fees; overheads and profit; inflation during the construction period; and contingencies.

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the geographical location of subcontractors tendering for work under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [324081]

Mr. Coaker: The Department has issued no guidance to local authorities on the geographical location of subcontractors tendering for work under the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. It is for each local authority in the BSF programme to determine its own approach to the use of local contractors bearing in mind local employment initiatives and ensuring that that the local authority acts in compliance with its obligations under procurement law.

Children: Abuse

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to bring forward proposals for the protection of children in suspected cases of domestic violence. [322832]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Keeping children safe from all forms of abuse is a top priority for the Government. The Government recognise the strong links between safeguarding concerns and domestic violence. All professionals working with or who come into contact with children and their families, including those working in health or education, have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. If they have reason to believe that a child is at risk from harm as a result of domestic violence, they should follow the same steps to raise this concern as they would for any other child at risk of abuse. 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2010) and 'What To Do If You're Worried a Child Is Being Abused' (2006) provide guidance for professionals on the impact of domestic violence on children and stress the need for awareness of those links.

The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit and the National Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference Steering Group chaired by the Home Office will be working with key partners over the next few months to develop guidance for local MARAC partnerships to ensure that the cases of children which are most at risk of harm in families affected by domestic violence are indentified and prioritised.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on helping children affected by domestic abuse through *(a)* training professionals to consider the needs of the children involved and *(b)* provision of support services for children and families affected. [322918]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Keeping children safe from all forms of harm, including the effects of domestic violence, is a top priority for the Government.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) have a responsibility to ensure that single-agency and inter-agency training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is provided in order to meet local needs. LSCBs should also evaluate the quality of the training, ensuring that relevant training is provided by individual organisations and checking that the training is reaching the relevant staff within organisations.

The Government are providing over £170 million for 2009-11 for local authorities, working with partners, to implement Think Family reforms and projects to secure better outcomes for children and families with additional needs, including those affected by domestic violence. Key to these reforms and projects is co-ordinating the support these families receive from children, adult and family services. In particular, family intervention projects are working intensively with families with complex needs, including those affected by domestic violence, through key workers and multi-agency whole family support plans. The Government have committed to expand family intervention projects to 10,000 families a year from 2012-13.

Children: Social Services

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department plans to take under the new burdens commitment to fund local authorities to implement recommendations made following investigations of the circumstances surrounding the death of Baby P. [320741]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 5 March 2010]:* Following the tragic case of Baby Peter, Ministers asked Lord Laming to prepare an independent report on progress nationally on child protection. Lord Laming published his report in March 2009 and the Government accepted all his recommendations. We announced a new £58 million Social Work Transformation Fund to provide an immediate boost for social work training, support, recruitment and retention. This is in addition to the £73 million for the children and families' social work workforce already allocated from 2008 to 2011 and the £100 million each year to fund social worker initial training, bursaries and practice placements.

Following consultation, we will shortly be publishing revised statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children" to reflect Lord Laming's recommendations, recognise changes in the policy landscape, and help clarify roles and responsibilities between organisations and agencies. Local areas should already be delivering effective arrangements to safeguard and protect the welfare of children, and the revisions to the guidance will re-emphasise the need for the consistent application of effective practice.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many times the Government office for Yorkshire and the Humber approved an extension of the deadline for the publication of the serious case review into the death of Child BO5 in Doncaster; and for what reasons on each occasion. [323264]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* Child BO5 died in October 2004 and the serious case review was initiated in November 2005. No procedure existed at that time whereby Local Safeguarding Children Boards were expected to discuss the proposed extension of deadlines for the completion of serious case reviews with Government offices for the regions. Accordingly, the Government office for Yorkshire and the Humber played no part in extending of the deadline for the Child BO5 serious case review.

Departmental Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301187]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement about the cost of ministerial cars made by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark) on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 79-80WS.

For the cost of cars to officials, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark) on 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 762W.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on *(a)* consultants, *(b)* advertising, *(c)* publishing, *(d)* public relations, *(e)* professional training and *(f)* other activities for each programme campaign (i) run by the Department and (ii) commissioned from other organisations in (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (D) 2008-09; and which organisations ran each campaign which was not run by his Department. [306825]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Promotional campaigns, including those using advertising, are funded from the Department's central Advertising and Publicity Budget and from individual programme budgets held by policy directorates. It is therefore not possible to establish a definitive figure for all advertising and promotion, except at disproportionate cost.

Advertising is part of a full integrated promotional campaign. We are able to separate the Department's spend on campaign advertising, as this is centrally placed through the Central Office of Information. These figures are media total and exclude production, fees and VAT and are outlined in Table A.

Public relations agencies are employed for specific communications tasks, most commonly working alongside our press office to provide campaign support in local, regional and specialist media. The Department's expenditure on public relations is outlined in Table B.

There has been no professional training undertaken for campaigns in the four years in question.

The nature and diversity of consultancy streams that may have been used since 2005 means that a full survey of spend would be possible only at disproportionate cost.

Information relating to publications and other activities cannot be supplied without incurring disproportionate cost.

Table A: Advertising

	Total spend (£)
2005-06	8,300,254
2006-07	6,573,885
2007-08	4,659,786
2008-09	13,891,106

Table B: Public relations

	Total spend (£)
2005-06	596,545
2006-07	1,168,869
2007-08	2,333,000
2008-09	4,023,403

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to questions in the formulation "if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997" could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323858]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 23 March 2010]:* The Department seeks to answer all parliamentary questions that do not incur disproportionate cost. The methodology used to determine whether answers to these questions could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost was the Department's guidance on the "Calculation of the Disproportionate Cost threshold for answering PQs" which is based on the guidance published on the Cabinet Office's website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide/chapter7.aspx

Officials in the Department have concluded that answering these questions in full would exceed the current disproportionate cost threshold of £800 as announced in Parliament by the Treasury on the 20 January 2010. These questions are very broad in scope covering all of the Department's policies over a number of years. To identify the effects of all policies on an individual constituency, collate all of the data and carry out the necessary quality assurance would require a considerable amount of resource, far in excess of the threshold. The round robin guidance issued by the Treasury for these questions advised directing questioners to the Neighbourhood Statistics Service website. However, while the Department has placed considerable amounts of data on this website, it is not at constituency level. My officials, in line with Cabinet Office guidance, decided to answer the questions by providing the requested information which was readily available and provided readily available attainment data at constituency level and a link to the Department's "In Your Area" website

where the Department publishes further local level data including data at parliamentary constituency level. It would only be possible for the Department to provide additional information by exceeding the disproportionate cost threshold.

Education: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been provided by his Department *(a)* for education maintenance allowances, *(b)* under the Entry to Employment programme and *(c)* under the Behaviour Improvement programme since the introduction of each such scheme; and how many people in Birmingham have received assistance under each of those schemes. [321573]

Mr. Iain Wright: Investment in education maintenance allowance (EMA), Entry to Employment (E2E) and the Behaviour Improvement programme (BIP) provision since the introduction of the schemes is shown for each year in the following tables:

EMA

	£ million
1999-2000	11
2000-01	52
2001-02	109
2002-03	120
2003-04	142
2004-05	260
2005-06	407
2006-07	503
2007-08	533
2008-09	532
2009-10	569

E2E Funding

	£
2002-03	73,588
2003-04	206,329
2004-05	246,583
2005-06	222,373
2006-07	186,815
2007-08	174,853
2008-09	170,000
2009-10	223,000

BIP

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£ Total
Phase 1	29,225,003	48,653,015	44,200,000	38,542,400	160,620,418
Phase 2	—	36,400,000	33,850,000	29,525,600	99,775,600
Phase 3	—	—	20,280,000	19,088,000	39,368,000
Phase 4	—	—	—	39,000,000	39,000,000
Total	29,225,003	85,053,015	98,330,000	126,156,000	338,764,018

The following tables show the number of young people in Birmingham who have benefited from EMA and E2E. Data are not held on the number of young people in Birmingham who have benefited from the BIP.

EMA

Area type	Area name		Number of people
LA	Birmingham	2004/05	12,749
		2005/06	14,182
		2006/07	16,593
		2007/08	17,117
		2008/09[1]	17,516
		2009/10[2]	18,599

[1] Year to date for 2009/10 (up-to-date as of 17 February 2010)
[2] Year to date - 28 August 2009 to 31 January 2010.

In 2008/09 and 2009/10 some applicants were not recorded against any particular local authority or region but were included in the total take-up figure for England. In consequence, LA and regional data may be underestimated.

E2E

	Number of young people
2003-04	1,694
2004-05	1,712
2005-06	1,570
2006-07	1,518
2007-08	1,587
2008-09	1,762
2009-10	[1]906

[1] Year to date for 2009/10 (up-to-date as of 17 February 2010)

Educational Maintenance Allowance: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many education maintenance allowances have been paid to young people from the City of York in each year since 2004-05. [322120]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is held by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). I have asked the LSC's chief executive, Geoff Russell, to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 22 March 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 322120 that asked:

"How many education maintenance allowances have been paid to young people from City of York in each year since 2004-05."

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year. EMA take-up for York Local Authority area during each academic year since inception is as follows:

	Number
2004/05	590
2005/06	1,178
2006/07	1,327
2007/08	1,392
2008/09	1,409
2009/10 (to end January 2010)	1,490

In comparing across years, it is important to understand that national roll-out was phased over several years. In the first year EMA was available to all 16 year olds across England and to 17 and 18 year olds in former pilot areas. In 2005/06 EMA was available to all 16 and 17 year olds nationally. From 2006/07 EMA was available to all 16, 17 and 18 year olds nationally.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08 is available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

Home Education

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms are in place to ensure home-schooled children have *(a)* information about and *(b)* access to examination centres. [319342]

Mr. Iain Wright: The "Report to the Secretary of State on the Review of Elective Home Education in England" (the Badman Report) recommended that local authorities should support home-educated children and young people in finding appropriate examination centres, and provide entries free to all home-educated candidates who have demonstrated sufficiently their preparedness, for all DCSF funded qualifications. The Government have accepted this recommendation, and the Department's statutory guidance to local authorities on registration and monitoring will set out the steps they should take to work with schools and FE colleges to identify suitable examination and assessment centres for home-educated children. A draft of this guidance will be issued for consultation later this year.

The Government also welcome the work of the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) and the Association of Colleges (AoC), who are considering how they can encourage and support schools and further education colleges to provide a better service to home educators and other private candidates. QCDA recently published a leaflet, "Accepting Private Candidates", to provide examination centres with practical advice, and to alleviate any unjustified concerns they might have.

Music: Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage participation in specialist instrumental or vocal tuition amongst *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in maintained schools. [313771]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 28 January 2010]:* The standards fund music grant to local authorities has, since 2006-07, included a formula-based allocation for children to be given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and/or receive specialist vocal tuition at key stage 2. The allocation of an extra £23 million a year since 2007-08, along with our strong guidance to local authorities to focus efforts on reaching 100 per cent. of the key stage 2 population, has had a significant impact on widening access to instrumental and vocal tuition. In addition, Sing Up, the national singing programme, has received £10 million a year from 2007 to provide resources and professional development for teachers to lead singing in primary schools. While support has focused on widening access to instrumental and vocal tuition for primary school pupils, "Tune In—Year of Music" was launched last September and this initiative is promoting musical activities across the country for 0 to 19-year-olds.

Playgrounds

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in the construction of the *(a)* 3,500 outdoor play areas and *(b)* 300 staffed adventure playgrounds referred to in the 2007 Children's Plan. [318417]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* Following the commitments made in the Children's Plan in 2007 and the national Play Strategy in 2008, every top-tier local authority in England has been receiving funding through the play capital investment programme since April 2009.

Of the 152 top-tier local authorities, 30 are play pathfinder authorities and the remaining 122 local authorities are all play builder authorities. On average every play pathfinder authority receives around £2 million capital funding and £500,000 revenue funding over the current spending period 2008-09 to 2010-11. They will use this funding to deliver a minimum of 28 play areas plus a staffed adventure playground. The play builder authorities receive around £1 million capital and £45,000 revenue funding over the same spending period and will deliver a minimum of 22 play areas. The play areas that are delivered can be either completely new areas or existing areas which are significantly refurbished.

Decisions on where the allocated capital funding is spent within local authority boundaries are taken locally, based on grant requirements which state that: improved play spaces must be provided where they are most needed, and as a result of a robust consultation process involving local children and young people, families and wider communities.

The number of outdoor public play areas delivered by local authorities since the programme began in April 2008 is 1,152 and plans are well under way to ensure that the target of 3,500 play areas completed by the end of March 2011 is achieved. Of the 30 staffed adventure playgrounds, 20 are due to be delivered by the end of March 2010 with local authorities managing the impact of the recent extreme weather. The remaining 10 adventure playgrounds will be delivered by the end of March 2011.

Schools: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in Preston deemed to be failing have since reached a satisfactory standard since 1997. [311240]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 19 January 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Prior to September 2005 inspections were carried out under the school inspection frameworks commonly known as Section 10. Since September 2005, inspections have been carried out under the school inspection frameworks commonly known as Section 5.

Under the current and previous inspection frameworks, Ofsted inspections do not use the term 'failing'. Instead, if inspectors judge that a school's overall effectiveness is inadequate or very poor, the school will be placed into a category of concern. Under Section 10 these categories were called 'serious weaknesses' and 'special measures'. Under Section 5 the categories are called 'notice to improve' and 'special measures'. This response takes into account any school in the parliamentary constituency of Preston which has been placed into any category of concern since September 1997.

Of all the inspections carried out by Ofsted in maintained schools in Preston between September 1997 and August 2009, sixteen have resulted in the school being placed in a category of concern. One school has been placed into a category of concern on two separate occasions and so appears twice in the figures. Three of the fifteen schools affected closed before being removed from the category of concern. The remaining twelve have all been removed from any category following a reinspection. As at the end of August 2009, no school in Preston was in a category of concern. Table A below provides a list of the individual schools.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

URN	*School name*	*Phase*	*Inspection framework*	*Category of concern*	*Date removed from the category*
119229	Eldon Primary School	Primary	Section 10	Special measures	5 February 2001
119603	Preston St. Matthew's Church of England Primary School	Primary	Section 10	Special measures	4 June 2001
119430	St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Preston	Primary	Section 10	Serious weakness	10 September 2001
119700	St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Preston	Primary	Section 10	Serious weakness	5 November 2001
119804	The Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School	Primary	Section 10	Serious weakness	20/05/2002
119354	Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School	Primary	Section 10	Special measures	9 December 2002
119709	City of Preston High School	Secondary	Section 10	Serious weakness	12 May 2003
119333	Fishwick Primary School	Primary	Section 10	Special measures	30 June 2003
119866	Moorbrook School	Special	Section 5	Notice to improve	29 February 2008
119743	Walton le Dale Arts College and High School	Secondary	Section 5	Notice to improve	20 May 2008
119709	City of Preston High School	Secondary	Section 5	Special measures	23 April 2009
119237	The Roebuck School	Primary	Section 5	Notice to improve	24 June 2009
119608	St. Maria Goretti Catholic Primary School, Preston	Primary	Section 5	Notice to improve	7 July 2009
119443	St. Wilfrid's RC Primary School	Primary	Section 10	Special measures	Closed
119365	Bamber Bridge St. Saviour's Church of England Primary School	Primary	Section 10	Serious weakness	Closed
119105	Preston Tutorial Centre	PRU	Section 10	Special measures	Closed

Sixth Form Education: Complaints

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to whom a complaint from *(a)* a student and *(b)* an apprentice aged between 16 and 19 years and attending a (i) further education college and (ii) sixth form college will be referred if the student is dissatisfied with that college's response to their complaint after 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [323297]

Mr. Iain Wright: The current policy for complaints from a student or an apprentice aged between 16 and 19 years and attending a further education college or a sixth-form college is that they can complain to the relevant regional office of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) which funds the further education college or sixth-form college in question. The LSC would only consider such complaints once the college's own internal complaints procedure has been fully exhausted.

From 1 April 2010, complaints from learners aged 16-19 in a further education college will be dealt with by the chief executive of the Skills Funding Agency. Complaints about sixth-form colleges will be dealt with by the relevant local authority and subsequently directed to the local government ombudsman if the complainant continues to remain dissatisfied. All complaints from apprentices will be directed to the Skills Funding Agency after exhausting the provider mechanisms. We will keep this policy under review.

Social Services: Doncaster

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the report entitled Organisation and Management Review of Duty and Assessment and Urban CSSW Teams written by Bron Sanders for Doncaster metropolitan borough council in March 2007 was taken into account in the preparation of the full serious case review into the death of Child AO6 in Doncaster which was published in executive summary in July 2007. [316197]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* The preparation and content of serious case reviews are

the responsibility of the appropriate Local Safeguarding Children Board, in accordance with statutory guidance contained in the Government publication "Working Together To Safeguard Children". In the case mentioned, it would have been for Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board to decide what reports to take into account when undertaking the serious case review.

Teachers: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time teaching positions in maintained schools in Leeds local authority area are *(a)* vacant and *(b)* filled by part-time or temporary staff. [324586]

Mr. Coaker: In January 2009, the latest information available, there were 13 advertised vacant posts for full-time teachers in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools in Leeds local authority that were either uncovered or filled by a teacher on a contract of less than one term. In addition there were a further 65 teaching posts available to permanent full-time teachers that were being filled by teachers with a contract of more than one term but less than one year. These vacancies include posts where a permanent teacher has been appointed but was not in post and exclude posts where the incumbent is on sick, maternity or other paid leave.

Information on the number of full-time posts that are covered by part-time teachers is not collected centrally.

This information is from the "Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, (618g)". Provisional national level vacancy information for 2010 is due to be published on 26 May.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers in maintained schools in Leeds local authority area have left their position for reasons other than retirement in each of the last five years. [324587]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of teachers who have left service in the last five years is not available at local authority level because the data source is not complete enough to provide a reliable estimate.

TRANSPORT

A13: Litter

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* he has not replied to a letter from Thurrock borough council on contract compliance in respect of the Connect Plus Group's obligation to collect rubbish and litter from, and to clean, the A13 highway in Thurrock; and if he will make a statement. [324228]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency received a letter regarding this matter on 2 February from Thurrock borough council and it was copied to the Secretary of State for Transport. An email response was sent by the Highways Agency on 4 February 2010. Subsequently, a senior representative of the Highways Agency met with the council's Cabinet Member for Environmental Services to resolve the issues concerning litter on the A13 in Thurrock.

I am not aware of any other correspondence from Thurrock borough council regarding this matter.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1192W, on automatic number plate recognition, whether a privacy impact assessment was undertaken in relation to the use of automatic number plate recognition for civil parking and civil traffic enforcement. [324836]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 179W.

British Transport Police: Sweet Concepts

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 156W, on Central Office of Information: marketing, what promotional products were purchased from Sweet Concepts Ltd. on behalf of British Transport Police; and at what cost. [324406]

Chris Mole: I understand that the products concerned were predominantly promotional bags of sweets used by the British Transport Police at community engagement and rail safety events. The total cost over the three year period 2006-07 to 2008-09 was £9,630 plus VAT.

Bus Services

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of and *(b)* percentage change in bus usage in (i) York and (ii) England in the last five years. [324221]

Mr. Khan: The following table shows the number of bus journeys in England over the last five years and the annual percentage increases.

Bus passenger journeys for England, 2004-05 to 2008-09

	"Old" basis (million)	*"New" basis (million)*	*Percentage change on previous year*
2004-05	4,299	—	+1.6
2005-06	4,360	—	+1.4
2006-07	4,648	—	+6.6
2007-08[1]	4,715	4,628	+1.4
2008-09	—	4,701	+1.6

[1] There is a break in the time series of estimated passenger journeys in 2007-08 due to a change in the estimation methodology. Figures are shown on both the old and new basis for that year. The next planned release of Bus and Light Rail Statistics, due on 17 June 2010 will include figures on the 'new basis' for years prior to 2007-08.

Source:
PSV Survey of Bus and Coach Operators.

Bus patronage data for the city of York unitary authority cannot be made available from the same source as they are commercially confidential.

Information at a local authority level is, however, available from the National Indicator Set. These data are not consistent with the DFT's published patronage estimates above and have not gone through the same reconciliation and consistency checks.

The following table shows National Indicator 177 (Local bus and light rail passenger journeys originating in the authority area) figures for the city of York.

Bus passenger journeys for City of York, 2004-05 to 2008-09

	NI 177 (thousand)	*Percentage change on previous year*
2004-05	14,300	—
2005-06	14,494	+1.4
2006-07	15,144	+4.5
2007-08	14,853	-1.9
2008-09	15,334	+3.2

Source:
LA National Indicator 177

Bus Services: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has provided for concessionary bus travel in Birmingham since the inception of that scheme. [325164]

Mr. Khan: The administration of the concessionary travel scheme in Birmingham is carried out by Centro, the West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive. The Government provide funding for concessionary travel in Birmingham through two channels: formula grant to Birmingham city council and special grant to West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (WMITA).

Before 1 April 2008, funding for the statutory minimum bus concession was provided exclusively through the formula grant system. Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant and as such it is not possible to identify how much formula grant has been allocated to local authorities for any particular service, such as concessionary travel for older and disabled people.

From April 2008, the Department for Transport has provided additional special grant funding to local authorities to cover the extra costs of providing England-wide travel, of which WMITA received £12,352,518 in 2008-09 and £12,643,851 in 2009-10. The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) continues to provide the bulk of concessionary travel funding to local authorities through formula grant.

The Department for Transport also provided WMITA with £2,185,500 in 2007-08 for the cost of producing and issuing the new England-wide bus passes to all those eligible.

Coastal Erosion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much he *(a)* has given in the last three financial years and *(b)* plans to give in the next three financial years to local authorities in (i) Essex and (ii) England to restore cliff slippages that threaten (A) rail and (B) road links; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement; [324391]

(2) what legislative authority he has to fund local authorities to restore cliff slippages that threaten *(a)* rail and *(b)* road links; and if he will make a statement; [324392]

(3) what recent *(a)* meetings he has had with and *(b)* representations he has received from Southend borough council on cliff slippages that threaten (i) rail and (ii) road links; what the (A) location and (B) duration was of each meeting; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; and if he will make a statement; [324393]

(4) what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on cliff slippages that threaten (i) rail and (ii) road links in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [324394]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport provided £1 million funding to Southend borough council in January 2008 for highway repairs to prevent damage occurring to rail and road links from a cliff slippage. The Department for Transport met with officials from the authority and their consultant prior to the submission of a business case by the authority seeking this funding. No record was made of the meeting which took place in Southend.

The funding for this highway maintenance scheme will be provided under Section 31 of Local Government Act 2003.

The Department for Transport has not conducted any specific research on cliff slippages that threaten rail and road links. The Highways Agency continues to monitor and provide support on research conducted on chalk cliff stability. Current research is of a localised nature—e.g. cliff monitoring initiatives being carried out in the Brighton and Hove District. The Highways Agency has identified that there may be future collaboration opportunities for research in this field available through the INTERREG programme (interested parties include Brighton and Hove City council, Brighton University, Leeds University and Chalk Rock Ltd).

Government resilience policy for events which result from incidents of instability are a matter for the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). Southend borough council have not discussed cliff stabilisation issues with CLG recently.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324554]

Chris Mole: Within the Department for Transport subsidised gym facilities for staff are only provided at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). The DVLA provides the accommodation and covers the overheads (such as electricity), which then allows the agency to keep the cost of membership to a minimum.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has constructed smoking shelters at its London premises for the use of its staff since May 2008. [325118]

Chris Mole: No smoking shelters have been built in the Department's London headquarter premises since May 2008.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will issue guidance on his Department's policy on the relocation offshore of departmental jobs to companies bidding for contracts let by his Department. [324789]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not have a specific policy relating to offshore contracts. However, the Department conducts its procurement in accordance with UK Government's value for money policies and principles in accordance with the legal and regulatory framework, including the principles of non-discrimination, the EU procurement directives and the UK's international obligations. The Department follows these policy principles in respect of tender evaluations.

The ability to deliver the contract is always a key consideration in the tender evaluation. Any tender proposal involving the offshore relocation of services would be given the appropriate level of consideration in the context of security and any other matter relevant to the requirement.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324969]

Chris Mole: The information requested is not centrally recorded and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in real terms. [324801]

Chris Mole: Press office activities across the Department are not exclusively carried out by staff or units solely dedicated to this purpose. Press officer function pay costs have been estimated for 2008-09 in the following table.

Press officer activities 2008-09	*Payroll cost (£000)*
DFT Central	823
Driving Standards Agency	123
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	181
Government Car and Despatch Agency	0
Highways Agency	540
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	156
Vehicle Certification Agency	0
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	47

The Department for Transport was created in May 2002. Records of costs for 1996-97 are not readily available owing to departmental and agency re-organisations and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department and its agencies spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what such items were. [324710]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has not spent any money on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years apart from the Government Car Despatch Agency who spent £818 in 2006-07 on desk planners.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to questions in the formulation "if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997" could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323873]

Mr. Khan: The information used by the Department in responding to these questions was readily available on the Department's or the local authorities' websites or from the Government offices for the regions. The risk of incurring disproportionate cost did not therefore arise.

East Coast Railway Line: Franchises

Mr. Gale: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what penalty payments *(a)* NXEC and *(b)* National Express made to his Department following the termination of their tenure of the East Coast Main Line franchise. [324590]

Chris Mole: As a result of the termination of the NXEC franchise, the Department for Transport called both the performance and the season ticket bonds maintained by the company. These were valued at £31.4 million and £4.8 million respectively.

Additionally, before the termination and in accordance with their franchise agreement, National Express was required to provide £40 million of financial support to NXEC to maintain the financial ratios specified in NXEC's franchise agreement. This represents a non-refundable cost to National Express.

East London Line

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what representations his Department has received from *(a)* the Mayor of London and *(b)* Lewisham council's Executive Mayor on funding a new station at Surrey Canal Road on the extended East London Line. [325019]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has received a number of representations from Transport for London, the Mayor of London and the Mayor of Lewisham in relation to the proposed new station at Surrey Canal Road. Transport for London and Lewisham have also submitted a business case in relation to the new station.

Officials at the Department continue to discuss this business case with officials from Transport for London and Lewisham council.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has informed *(a)* Transport for London and *(b)* Lewisham council that it will contribute to the funding of a new station at Surrey Canal Road on the extended East London Line. [325020]

Mr. Khan: The business case for the proposed new station at Surrey Canal Road was submitted by Transport for London and Lewisham council late last year. The Department for Transport had a number of concerns with the business case provided and officials have been discussing these issues with both parties.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the demand projections made by Transport for London for the proposed new station at Surrey Canal Road on the extended East London Line. [325021]

Mr. Khan: The business case and the demand projections for the proposed new station at Surrey Canal Road were provided by Transport for London. Some concerns have been noted with regard to the projected demand levels at the station when compared with other neighbouring stations.

The specific concern was that projected demand levels at the station were similar to or higher than other stations in established residential and shopping locations with significantly higher levels of train service, such as New Cross Gate and Peckham Rye.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what process his Department is undertaking to evaluate the case for a new station at Surrey Canal Road on the extended East London Line; and if he will make a statement. [325022]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport is assessing the business case submitted by Transport for London and Lewisham council to ensure that it is robust; that it is based on realistic future population and employment forecasts; and that it accords with the appraisal criteria used for all transport schemes that the Department is asked to fund. It is important that this process is carried out to ensure that taxpayers' money is being used effectively and that the proposed benefits will be realised.

The appraisal criteria, Webtag, are available on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/webtag/index.php

First Capital Connect

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what meetings he has had with representatives of First Capital Connect in each of the last six months; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each such meeting. [320898]

Chris Mole: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 877W. In addition, a meeting was held on 2 February 2010 between the Secretary of State, the Chief Executive of First Group, the Managing Director of First UK Rail and the Managing Director of First Capital Connect. The minutes of the meetings on 12 November 2009 and 2 February 2010 have been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on the operation of First Capital Connect; and whether he has made a recent assessment of the merits of withdrawing its franchise and taking its operations into public ownership. [324644]

Chris Mole: A number of representations have been received regarding the operation of First Capital Connect from Members of Parliament and passengers.

Since 18 January 2010, when First Capital Connect's full timetable was reinstated, we have continued to monitor performance closely and the indication is that First Capital Connect is returning to pre-disruption levels of service.

To date, no Event of Default, as set out in the Franchise Agreement, has occurred.

Galileo

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate has been made of the number of satellites which can be launched and maintained within the £3.4 billion funding ceiling for the Galileo project. [324525]

Paul Clark: The €3.4 billion budget is the cost for full operational capability (FOC) of the Galileo system which is to build all necessary space and ground-based infrastructures, including the launch of 30 satellites. The European Commission let a contract for 14 satellites in January this year. The procurement process is still ongoing so the final contract prices are not yet known.

Costs related to the maintenance of the Galileo system fall to the next European Financial Perspective starting in 2014. The European Commission will come forward later this year with a mid-term review of the programme which will make proposals for the operation and maintenance of the system.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the total *(a)* area and *(b)* population was within the (i) 57, (ii) 60, (iii) 63, (iv) 66, (v) 69 and (vi) 72 dBA noise contours at Heathrow Airport in each year from 2000 to 2009. [323780]

Paul Clark: The following statistics have been extracted from the annual aircraft noise contour reports covering Heathrow airport, which are available on the Department's website. They relate to the actual modal split contours. Standard contours—based on a 20-year average of east/west splits—are also available in the reports.

Leq level dBA	*Area sq km*	*Population*
2000		
57	135.6	275,200
60	78.7	138,700
63	48.2	71,900
66	30.9	29,200
69	19.0	11,500
72	10.2	3,100
2001		
57	117.4	240,400
60	68.1	108,000
63	41.2	54,900
66	25.5	21,500
69	14.1	6,800
72	7.1	1,500
2002		
57	126.9	258,300
60	71.9	122,600
63	43.8	64,200
66	28.7	29,300
69	16.4	8,600
72	8.4	2,900
2003		
57	126.9	263,700
60	71.1	128,600
63	43.8	64,600
66	28.1	28,800
69	15.6	8,000
72	8.3	2,500
2004		
57	117.4	239,700
60	66.7	105,300
63	40.3	55,900
66	24.4	21,000
69	13.3	5,700
72	6.5	1,500
2005		
57	117.2	251,700
60	64.4	110,500
63	39.1	51,800
66	23.7	16,400
69	12.4	3,900
72	6.5	800
2006		
57	117.4	258,000
60	63.9	110,200
63	38.4	51,200
66	23.3	15,900
69	11.9	3,600
72	6.4	700
2007		
57	119.6	251,900
60	65.3	100,400
63	37.6	45,100
66	23.1	16,200
69	12.2	3,700
72	6.4	700
2008[1]		
57	123.1	268,450
60	66.2	103,650
63	37.7	47,100
66	22.8	15,950
69	11.8	3,900
72	6.1	650

[1] Contour reports for 2000-07 contain population figures rounded to nearest 100. In 2008 population figures were provided to nearest 50.

Figures for 2009 will be published as soon as they are available.

Hotels

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what proportion of all hotel bookings made by his Department were made through the Expotel facility in the last year for which figures available. [324409]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport (central) made 2,328 bookings for overnight accommodation through Expotel in 2008-09, the Highways Agency made 2,937 and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency made 145. In each case bookings made by other means are not recorded centrally so the information defining Expotel bookings as a proportion of the total could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In the same period the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) made 187 bookings through Expotel, amounting to 0.9 per cent. of the DSA total, and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) made 4,998 such bookings representing 94.08 per cent. of the DVLA total.

The Government Car and Despatch Agency, the Vehicle Certification Agency and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency could provide this information only at disproportionate cost.

Kemble-Swindon Railway Line

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of passengers on and *(b)* the income derived from rail journeys between Cheltenham and Swindon in each of the last five years. [324820]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has not made an estimate of *(a)* the number of passengers on and *(b)* the income derived from rail journeys between Cheltenham and Swindon in each of the last five years.

The franchised train operator running services between Cheltenham and Swindon is First Great Western. Therefore,

the hon. Member should contact First Great Western's Managing Director at the following address for a response to his question:

Mr. Mark Hopwood
Managing Director
First Great Western
Milford House
1 Milford Street
Swindon
SN11HL

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* First Great Western, *(b)* the South West Regional Development Agency and *(c)* the European Commission on the provision of additional funding for the redoubling of the Swindon to Kemble line. [324834]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is in regular dialogue with First Great Western, Network Rail and local stakeholders, including the South West Regional Development Agency, on the funding and development of the Swindon to Kemble re-doubling project. The European Commission will consider the case for grant funding alongside other projects from across the Community.

Lorry Drivers: Licensing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 15 March 2010, *Official Report,* column 621W, on the Traffic Commissioners, how many heavy goods licences have been amended or revoked following representations from local authorities in the last 12 months. [324826]

Paul Clark: From April 2009 to date the traffic commissioners have reviewed six goods vehicle operator's licences under section 30 of the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995 as a result of complaints received from local authorities and/or local residents. Of these, four resulted in licences being continued with amendments and two were allowed to continue without change.

Network Rail

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what information his Department holds on the number of unfilled vacancies in Network Rail's maintenance function; [325226]

(2) what discussions he has had with Network Rail on adjustment of its figures for redundancies in the control period *(a)* 2009 to 2014 and *(b)* 2014 to 2019; [325227]

(3) whether Network Rail has informed him of any proposed redundancies in addition to those already announced for the control period *(a)* 2009 to 2014 and *(b)* 2014 to 2019. [325228]

Chris Mole: Staffing is an operational matter for Network Rail. Network Rail is required by the independent Office of Rail Regulation to deliver substantial efficiency savings and improvements for the operation, maintenance and renewal of the network over the next five years.

On 3 March the Office of Rail Regulation announced the outcome of its review of Network Rail's proposals for the restructuring of its maintenance function, and its support for Network Rail's goal of introducing greater efficiency into its maintenance practices in ways that sustain and improve safety. Network Rail has discussed its proposals in the course of its routine meetings with Ministers.

On 25 March the Office of Rail Regulation made clear that Network Rail's proposed new structure and revised key standards support their joint aims of safer and more efficient maintenance.

Official Cars: Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost was of providing Ministerial cars in each of the last five years. [324821]

Paul Clark: Costs to Departments of ministerial cars are reported annually to Parliament by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport through written ministerial statements and are available in the Libraries of the House.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has undertaken costings of the policies of the *(a)* Conservative Party and *(b)* Liberal Democrat Party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months. [324248]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has not undertaken costing of the policies of the *(a)* Conservative party and *(b)* Liberal Democrat party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months.

Public Transport: West Midlands

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has provided for the purpose of maintaining and extending *(a)* roads, *(b)* railway services, *(c)* bus services, *(d)* cycle lanes and *(e)* other transport services in (i) Birmingham and (ii) the West Midlands in each year since 1997. [325163]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport publishes estimates of its total expenditure on services by region and country, including the west midlands, in its annual report. These figures rest on a number of assumptions, for example about how total expenditure on strategic highways and rail should be attributed to different regions.

These figures exclude grant to local authorities, as this information is collated separately by CLG, DCSF, DWP and devolved Administrations. Details of the Department's funding for local authorities in the west midlands, which in general is not ring-fenced to particular transport services, may be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/localauthorities/funding/fundingstreams/

The annual report does not provide specific figures for Birmingham and an estimate could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Railways: Construction

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what the *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue expenditure will be on the extension to the High Speed 2 route to Leeds over the period of construction; [324284]

(2) what the estimated total *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue expenditure will be on the High Speed 2 route from (i) London to Birmingham and (ii) London to Manchester over the period of construction; [324285]

(3) what estimated *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue expenditure will be incurred for the 335 mile Y network proposed in the High Speed Rail Command Paper over the period of construction. [324286]

Chris Mole: HS2 Ltd estimate that the capital cost of construction of the recommended high speed rail line from London to the West Midlands is between £15.8 billion and £17.4 billion. The estimated capital cost of construction for new lines from the West Midlands to the North West, and to Yorkshire via the East Midlands, is £5.4-5.8 billion (depending on routeing at Manchester) and £5.8 billion, respectively. All figures are in 2009 prices, include risk and optimum bias, and exclude rolling stock costs.

Unlike the London to the West Midlands cost estimate, those for the legs north of the West Midlands are not based on engineered routes. HS2 Ltd has been asked to carry out similar detailed planning work on route options from the West Midlands to Manchester and Leeds, to be completed in summer 2011, with a view to consulting the public early in 2012.

Estimates of revenue expenditure during construction would be developed at a later stage were the Government to decide to proceed following public consultation.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons, of the three possible routes for High Speed 2 proposed through the Chilterns, he decided on the route through Chesham and Amersham constituency; on what evidential basis he made that decision; and if he will make a statement. [324349]

Chris Mole: The Government will not take a decision on the route of any high speed line from London to the West Midlands until public consultation has taken place. The route recommended by HS2 Ltd., which follows the A413 corridor and which the Government agree should form the basis of consultation, was considered to be the preferred route option because it offers cost and journey time advantages and because its local and environmental impacts are on balance lower than those of the two other routes short-listed by HS2 Ltd.

In particular, its environmental impacts are reduced by following existing transport corridors for more than half the distance travelled at surface level through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. HS2 Ltd. considered a number of further routes which it did not shortlist; the Government agreed that these were significantly inferior.

Further detail is set out in the Command Paper and supporting documents which were published on 11 March 2010.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what invitations the Secretary of State has received from hon. Members to speak in their constituencies on High Speed 2 since 1 March 2010; and *(a)* when and *(b)* in what form each such invitation was received. [324519]

Chris Mole: The Secretary of State has received a number of requests, both verbal and written, from a number of sources, including hon. Members.

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what assessment he made of the merits of choosing *(a)* the M1, *(b)* the M40 and *(c)* another existing transport corridor as the preferred route for a high-speed rail link between London and Birmingham; [324888]

(2) what assessment he made of the merits of choosing a route alongside existing railway lines as the preferred route for the high-speed rail link between London and Birmingham. [324890]

Chris Mole: HS2 Ltd. drew up and assessed a large number of potential route options, including routes following several different existing motorway and mainline transport corridors. The process of route selection which the company undertook is set out at section 3.5 of its report to the Government, found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2ltd/hs2report/

This includes detailed explanation of the sifting out of potential options, including the M1 and M40 corridors. The Government agree with HS2 Ltd.'s assessment of route options.

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to receive the results of the further work he has asked HS2 Ltd to carry out on the proposed high-speed rail route alignment near Stoneleigh, Warwickshire; and in respect of which sections of that route the further work is being undertaken. [324891]

Chris Mole: As set out in the Secretary of State's letter dated 18 March to HS2 Ltd., a copy of which is available in the Libraries of the House and on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk

HS2 Ltd. will report to the Government by the end of August, in preparation for the formal public consultation in the autumn.

Railways: South East

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of the completion of the works in the South East required as a consequence of the improvement notice service on Network Rail. [324702]

Chris Mole: The Office of Rail Regulation served an improvement notice on Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd. on 18 March requiring the company to comply with its own standards for inspecting structures to ensure safety. Network Rail is already fully funded to meet the requirements of health and safety law.

Rapid Transit Systems: Yorkshire and the Humber

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date he expects the tram-train pilot project proposed between Sheffield and Rotherham to end; and if he will take steps to reduce the proposed duration of the pilot project. [324592]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport, Northern Rail, Network Rail and South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority are working closely as industry partners to ensure the success of the project and following the proposed start of services from 2012 will review operations every six months.

There is no plan to reduce the duration of the pilot. Indeed it is hoped that it will be a success and a permanently useful transport link.

Taxis: Guide Dogs

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make it his policy to collect, through his Department's surveys of licensing authorities, data on the number of taxi and private hire drivers with exemptions from statutory duties to carry guide and other assistance dogs. [324698]

Mr. Khan: These data are already collected from local authorities in our biennial local authority taxi survey. Figures have not been included in any publication but are available on request.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* ambulances, *(b)* rapid response vehicles and *(c)* air ambulances there were in each London borough in each year since 2000; [323800]

(2) whether he has made an estimate of the lowest number of *(a)* ambulances, *(b)* rapid response vehicles and *(c)* air ambulances available for emergency response in each London borough on average on a single day in each year since 2000. [323801]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally. The purchasing of ambulance vehicles is a matter for national health service ambulance trusts to manage in order to provide appropriate resources to meet local demand. The number of available emergency response vehicles is a matter for national health service ambulance trusts to manage in order to provide appropriate resources to meet local demand.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average time taken for an ambulance to reach a category A emergency was in each London borough in each year since 2000; [323802]

(2) how ambulance services in each London borough were set *(a)* category A eight, *(b)* category A 19 and *(c)* category B 19 minute response targets in each year since 2000; [323803]

(3) how many times an ambulance service *(a)* did not meet the eight minute response target and *(b)* took over 15 minutes to respond to a category A emergency in each London borough in each year since 2000; [323804]

(4) what the average response time was for *(a)* air ambulances, *(b)* road ambulances and *(c)* rapid response vehicles in each London borough in each year since 2000. [323805]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect information on average response times to emergency calls by national health service ambulance trusts.

The data that the Department does collect on ambulance response times are published on an annual basis in the statistical bulletin, "Ambulance services, England". These documents have already been placed in the Library and are available on the Information Centre for health and social care website:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs

All ambulance trusts are required to meet the same national response time standards. Category A calls (those presenting conditions that may be immediately life threatening) should be responded to within eight minutes in 75 per cent. of cases and category B calls (those conditions that are serious but not immediately life threatening) should be responded to within 19 minutes in 95 per cent. of cases.

The Department only collects national data at ambulance trust level, with strategic health authorities as the local headquarters of the NHS, and primary care trusts as commissioners, having the responsibility for ensuring that national response time standards are delivered and maintained by trusts. This may mean that trusts locally will look at performance data below ambulance trust level, but whether and how the NHS does this is for each region to decide and manage locally.

Ambulance Services: Standards

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he made of the number of patients in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* the Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust area, *(c)* the Peterborough Primary Care Trust area and *(d)* England who were attended to within (i) 10, (ii) 30, (iii) 60 and (iv) 120 minutes of requesting an ambulance in each of the last five years. [324596]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect response time data of ambulance services in the format requested, and has therefore not made an estimate of the number of patients who were attended within 10, 30, 60 and 120 minutes of requesting an ambulance.

The data that the Department does collect on ambulance response time are in accordance with the national response time targets and these are published on an annual basis

in the statistical bulletin, Ambulance Services, England. These documents have already been placed in the Library and on the Information for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance

Arthritis: Drugs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 966W, on arthritis: drugs, to which areas of Government policy his letter to the Prime Minister related. [324090]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 966W.

Asthma: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in each age group *(a)* with, *(b)* diagnosed with, *(c)* admitted to hospital as a result of, *(d)* treated by a GP as a result of and *(e)* who died as a result of asthma in each London borough in each year since 2000. [323738]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

Figures are available for the number of people registered with asthma in the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), introduced as part of the new General Medical Services contract on 1 April 2004. QOF data are available from 2004-05 and information has been provided broken down by primary care trust (PCT) of responsibility. The QOF disease register reporting does not collect information on ages, so the data is not split by age group.

We have provided a count of finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was asthma by age group and by PCT of residence in London for the years 2000-01 to 2008-09.

Information on the number of people treated by a general practitioner as a result of asthma, is not collected centrally.

Information is provided from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the number of deaths where asthma was the underlying cause of death for persons in each age group in each London borough, for the years 2000-08 (the latest year available) combined. The number of deaths at this level of detail is extremely small. Consequently, figures for individual years have not been provided, in line with ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics.

The information available has been placed in the Library.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the *(a)* number of units of medication prescribed to treat asthma-related conditions and *(b)* bed days were occupied as a result of asthma in each London borough in each year since 2000. [323739]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected in the format requested. The following tables show the number of items prescribed for asthma-related conditions in London primary care trusts (PCTs) from 2006 to 2009 and the number of finished consultant episode bed days where the primary diagnosis was asthma, given by PCT of residence in London for the years 2000-01 to 2008-09.

Items prescribed for asthma-related conditions in London 2006-09

PCT	Items			
	2006	2007	2008	2009[1]
Barking and Dagenham	127,193	130,402	134,237	102,722
Barnet	177,622	179,357	181,923	136,527
Bexley Care Trust	136,886	140,623	139,635	105,148
Brent Teaching	150,734	155,158	159,531	119,541
Bromley	174,199	174,441	176,350	131,643
Camden	97,679	96,328	99,515	74,481
City and Hackney Teaching	114,129	115,961	115,826	86,550
Croydon	187,823	191,036	196,150	146,878
Ealing	181,177	184,038	184,875	140,683
Enfield	159,942	160,070	165,812	125,442
Greenwich Teaching	165,457	163,219	165,706	125,681
Hammersmith and Fulham	84,273	87,006	86,142	65,544
Haringey Teaching	134,218	137,599	137,925	104,639
Harrow	139,146	143,961	147,964	110,496
Havering	156,823	168,798	178,363	136,048
Hillingdon	154,110	155,412	158,362	118,883
Hounslow	131,948	137,549	138,866	105,842
Islington	111,872	114,330	118,999	89,951
Kensington and Chelsea	65,167	67,858	67,850	51,952
Kingston	93,560	94,220	95,133	70,913
Lambeth	144,873	143,794	148,327	110,021
Lewisham	160,751	162,154	162,727	122,167
Newham	174,827	178,654	187,437	145,500
Redbridge	130,595	133,845	137,194	105,240
Richmond and Twickenham	90,861	92,054	95,092	72,145

Items prescribed for asthma-related conditions in London 2006-09

PCT	Items 2006	2007	2008	2009[1]
Southwark	138,791	141,913	143,623	107,918
Sutton and Merton	212,941	221,283	230,477	172,680
Tower Hamlets	126,113	126,929	128,528	97,768
Waltham Forest	134,323	137,058	139,595	106,985
Wandsworth Teaching	149,320	148,156	146,639	112,369
Westminster	86,734	91,214	93,804	72,086
Total	4,294,087	4,374,420	4,462,607	3,374,443

[1] January to September. *Notes:*
1. The PACT system covers prescriptions prescribed by general practitioners (GPs), nurses, pharmacists and others in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom. For data at PCT level, prescriptions written by a prescriber located in a particular PCT but dispensed outside that PCT will be included in the PCT in which the prescriber is based. Prescriptions written in England but dispensed outside England are included. Prescriptions written in hospitals/clinics that are dispensed in the community, prescriptions dispensed in hospitals, dental prescribing and private prescriptions are not included in PACT data. It is important to note this as some British National Formulary (BNF) sections have a high proportion of prescriptions written in hospitals that are dispensed in the community. For example, BNF chapter 4, "Central Nervous System" has a fair proportion of items written in mental health clinics that are dispensed in the community—these prescriptions are not included in PACT data.
2. Data are held for 60 months and so at the moment the only complete years available are 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. Complete data for 2009 cannot be released until after the publication of the associated National Statistic in April 2010 and so only data for January to September is presented here.
3. Prescriptions are written on a prescription form known as a FP10. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item.
4. The term "asthma-related conditions" has been taken to mean asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease since they are treated with the same medications, namely those classified under sections 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 of the BNF.
Source:
Prescribing Analysis and CosT (PACT) system.

Finished consultant episode bed days where the primary diagnosis was asthma by London PCT of residence from 2000-01 to 2008-09—Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

PCT of residence	PCT code	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	695	807	1,015	1,030	1,249	934	781	573	619
Barnet PCT	5A9	910	656	1,364	1,278	1,230	1,687	1,339	926	1,406
Bexley Care Trust	TAK	725	694	698	695	927	953	—	—	—
Bexley PCT	5AX	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,030	676	688
Brent Teaching PCT	5K5	1,150	1,177	1,183	1,439	1,505	1,408	1,270	516	747
Bromley PCT	5A7	599	756	1,027	1,375	1,251	1,118	1,295	579	1,102
Camden PCT	5K7	587	670	800	672	987	1,077	1,377	879	856
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	5C3	949	937	1,134	1,898	1,331	1,375	1,452	1,120	1,139
Croydon PCT	5K9	1,533	1,608	1,392	1,598	1,920	1,556	971	1,246	1,290
Ealing PCT	5HX	2,021	1,810	2,002	1,890	2,064	2,714	1,687	1,661	1,790
Enfield PCT	5C1	1,046	603	1,020	921	971	799	785	1,311	1,038
Greenwich Teaching PCT	5A8	572	554	690	873	843	1,363	841	957	824
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5H1	526	801	752	787	799	722	758	1,107	1,078
Haringey Teaching PCT	5C9	899	1,049	1,190	1,281	1,242	819	907	768	1,290
Harrow PCT	5K6	718	674	628	729	685	682	704	555	636
Havering PCT	5A4	475	549	563	768	824	992	856	773	678
Hillingdon PCT	5AT	831	783	530	658	661	597	818	733	1,004
Hounslow PCT	5HY	1,138	1,178	684	1,409	1,482	1,798	1,298	1,317	1,412
Islington PCT	5K8	1,182	1,238	1,325	1,287	1,037	980	809	868	855
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5LA	305	389	438	612	346	372	504	483	802
Kingston PCT	5A5	559	630	563	709	842	669	701	707	554
Lambeth PCT	5LD	1,038	1,030	1,178	1,136	1,195	1,260	1,440	1,526	1,298
Lewisham PCT	5LF	942	1,015	1,148	1,188	1,000	1,086	1,229	1,047	1,264
Newham PCT	5C5	1,137	1,144	1,302	1,037	1,212	1,244	1,470	1,471	1,389
Redbridge PCT	5NA	1,140	1,430	1,390	1,558	1,429	1,383	—	—	—
Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	5C7	—	—	—	—	—	—	616	381	358
Redbridge PCT	5C8	—	—	—	—	—	—	622	617	681
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5M6	601	504	456	478	630	800	737	418	446
Southwark PCT	5LE	877	800	982	1,052	1,211	1,658	1,198	1,288	1,225
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	1,210	1,302	1,062	995	1,336	1,271	1,076	1,465	1,576
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	816	1,048	806	1,304	1,388	1,173	1,058	1,401	1,073
Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT	5C6	—	—	—	—	—	—	608	458	614
Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	871	834	900	1,076	1,069	1,109	—	—	—

Finished consultant episode bed days where the primary diagnosis was asthma by London PCT of residence from 2000-01 to 2008-09—Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

PCT of residence	PCT code	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	962	939	809	1,076	1,116	1,130	1,230	1,063	1,264
Westminster PCT	5LC	677	619	722	814	963	648	809	1,153	1,044

Notes:
1. A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.
2. Episode duration/bed days: episode duration is calculated as the difference in days between the episode start date and the episode end date, where both are given. Episode duration is based on FCEs and applies only to ordinary admissions, i.e. day cases are excluded (unless otherwise stated).
3. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
4. PCT Changes: In July 2006, the NHS reorganised strategic health authorities (SHA) and PCTs in England from 28 SHAs into 10, and from 303 PCTs into 152. As a result, data from 2006-07 onwards is not directly comparable with previous years. In particular, it is noted that there was a change in the number of PCTs that constituted the London boroughs around 2003-04: Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT became Waltham Forest PCT; Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT and Redbridge PCT became Redbridge PCT; and Bexley PCT became Bexley Care Trust.
5. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
6. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent estimate of the cost per bed day of treating a patient with asthma in each London borough. [323740]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no such estimate.

Autism: Drugs

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are in place to ensure that adults with autism or special needs in care homes are asked whether they wish their next of kin to be informed when a course of powerful drugs is prescribed for them. [324766]

Phil Hope: There are no procedures that apply uniquely to adults with autism or special needs.

Adults with autism or special needs should be assessed to determine whether they have the capacity to consent to treatment. Where a person has been assessed as having the capacity to consent to treatment, it is up to the patient to decide whether they wish to inform any family members or discuss the treatment with family members. It would be inappropriate for staff at a care home or for health professionals to discuss such matters with the family, as this would be a breach of confidentiality.

If a person does not have the capacity to understand and to decide whether to consent or not, then health professionals have to take a "Best Interests" decision. The process is described in the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) Code of Practice, and requires professionals to follow certain steps.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 places a duty on health professionals to consult other people close to a person who lacks capacity on decisions affecting the person. Under section 4(7) of the MCA, health professionals have a duty to take into account the views of anyone involved in caring for the person and anyone interested in their welfare (for example family carers, other close relatives) as part of a "Best Interests" decision. Therefore, the family should be consulted where the treatment is being made under a "Best Interests" decision because the person lacks capacity.

Blood: Contamination

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 562W, on blood: contamination, what discussions he had with Lord Archer of Sandwell before publishing his estimate that the cost to the public purse of implementing the recommendations of Lord Archer's report on contaminated blood and blood products could be between £3 billion and £3.5 billion; and if he will provide a detailed breakdown of that figure. [324845]

Gillian Merron: The then Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson) and the then Minister of State (Dawn Primarolo) met Lord Archer on 11 March 2009 to discuss his report. There has been no discussion with Lord Archer of the cost of implementing his recommendations on financial relief to those affected by NHS-supplied contaminated blood and blood products.

Our initial estimate of £3-3.5 billion was based on an understanding that individual payments made in Ireland to infected patients ranged between £500,000 and £1,000,000, and was derived by multiplying the average of those figures by the estimated number of infected claimants in the UK. It did not take account of payments to dependents of those infected.

It is not possible to calculate an accurate figure for the cost of implementing Lord Archer's report because the Irish scheme uses a series of eligibility criteria which means that different claimants have received different amounts of compensation, depending on their circumstances. Therefore, unless each UK claimant is assessed individually against the same criteria, it would be impossible to give an accurate figure. It is also not possible to estimate with any certainty how many people in the UK might be eligible to apply.

Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the *(a)* gender, *(b)* age, *(c)* postcode, *(d)* ethnicity and *(e)* sexual orientation of cancer patients undergoing treatment. [323690]

Ann Keen: Cancer registries hold information on age, gender, postcode and ethnicity. Coverage of age, gender, and postcode is 100 per cent. Coverage of ethnicity is around 75 per cent. The National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) has already published a number of reports relevant to inequalities, including those on ethnicity, gender, age and deprivation.

The NCIN will continue to work with cancer services to support improved recording of ethnicity. No data are currently held on sexual orientation. However, the NCIN will continue to collect and analyse data which will further develop the evidence base on equality issues.

The National Cancer Equality Initiative report on "Reducing cancer inequality: evidence, progress and making it happen" was published on 19 March. Annex 1 of the report includes a summary of the evidence base on inequalities in cancer in England according to deprivation, age, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and religion.

The report is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114353

A copy of this report has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey to be conducted; and if he will make a statement. [323691]

Ann Keen: We have appointed an expert supplier to conduct the survey. We expect the survey to commence in spring 2010 with national and trust level reports due in autumn 2010.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to extend the Cancer National Awareness and Early Diagnosis programme to include all cancer *(a)* networks and *(b)* types. [323717]

Ann Keen: Through the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative we have allocated over £6 million to the national health service to implement services that will improve awareness of cancers and promote early diagnosis.

We recently announced that a further £8 million in 2010-11 will be available nationally to support primary care trusts (PCTs), building on progress achieved in 2009-10. This funding will help to accelerate and sustain work in this area and focus on the biggest cancer killers—breast, lung and bowel. PCTs are being encouraged to develop community based initiatives.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to publish one-year survival figures for cancer by primary care trust for *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [323917]

Ann Keen: The "Cancer Reform Strategy: Achieving local implementation—second annual report" published on 1 December 2009 includes one-year survival figures for breast, colorectal and lung cancer, by primary care trust (PCT). A copy has been placed in the Library. 2006 was the latest period for which PCT survival data were available.

The National Cancer Intelligence Network will produce annual primary care trust updates on one-year survival. 2007 data will be published in the 2010 "Cancer Reform Strategy" annual report.

Cancer: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients aged *(a)* under and *(b)* over 75 years were diagnosed with (i) cancer and (ii) heart disease in each London primary care trust in each of the last five years; what proportion of those patients commenced treatment within (A) three, (B) six and (C) 12 months; and what proportion of those patients commenced treatment more than 12 months after diagnosis. [323825]

Ann Keen: The data requested for the number diagnosed with cancer are displayed in the following tables. Data on the number of patients diagnosed with heart disease are not collected centrally. Data on the date within which treatment commenced are not collected in the format requested.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cancer, persons aged 74 years and under, primary care organisations in London[1], 2003-07[2]

Number

Primary care organisation	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Barking and Dagenham	389	351	409	394	395
Barnet	728	767	731	781	752
Bexley	592	643	604	636	622
Brent Teaching	597	585	637	583	593
Bromley	838	800	826	908	835
Camden	487	478	443	444	488
City and Hackney Teaching	461	418	490	507	427
Croydon	841	830	917	920	885
Ealing	704	627	737	662	705
Enfield	654	650	690	680	637
Greenwich Teaching	582	541	571	493	516
Hammersmith and Fulham	412	365	365	390	377
Haringey Teaching	491	520	477	494	498

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cancer, persons aged 74 years and under, primary care organisations in London[1], 2003-07[2]

Number

Primary care organisation	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Harrow	534	513	552	439	448
Havering	702	720	643	647	710
Hillingdon	566	642	623	614	634
Hounslow	474	451	500	530	568
Islington	439	494	484	417	446
Kensington and Chelsea	384	354	417	340	361
Kingston	371	389	396	373	443
Lambeth	615	592	623	651	619
Lewisham	507	635	584	566	610
Newham	423	462	457	449	504
Redbridge	568	522	472	537	562
Richmond and Twickenham	484	432	446	482	500
Southwark	551	567	559	608	574
Sutton and Merton	985	916	998	874	919
Tower Hamlets	412	357	379	404	348
Waltham Forest	445	409	466	477	400
Wandsworth	613	634	647	656	661
Westminster	539	468	511	487	446

Table 2: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cancer, persons aged 75 years and over, primary care organisations in London[1], 2003-07[2]

Number

Primary care organisation	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Barking and Dagenham	297	275	250	278	238
Barnet	541	479	458	423	465
Bexley	368	372	392	358	364
Brent Teaching	276	264	305	254	225
Bromley	551	506	495	567	540
Camden	221	239	229	209	257
City and Hackney Teaching	216	187	213	193	195
Croydon	417	467	438	448	444
Ealing	379	330	329	311	332
Enfield	374	374	370	362	325
Greenwich Teaching	348	323	324	305	296
Hammersmith and Fulham	172	166	190	168	171
Haringey Teaching	195	192	189	186	202
Harrow	295	275	315	296	270
Havering	480	439	445	449	479
Hillingdon	283	350	348	359	382
Hounslow	272	232	249	252	257
Islington	191	174	179	191	191
Kensington and Chelsea	170	179	197	172	176
Kingston	234	233	312	214	233
Lambeth	251	267	261	240	269
Lewisham	368	330	278	286	288
Newham	284	223	257	238	215
Redbridge	364	319	337	353	325
Richmond and Twickenham	288	278	277	295	258
Southwark	266	268	271	249	270
Sutton and Merton	553	560	498	533	546
Tower Hamlets	200	181	203	210	198
Waltham Forest	294	248	242	263	205
Wandsworth	334	313	289	317	299
Westminster	229	231	218	207	205

[1] Based on boundaries as of 2010.
[2] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that hospitals achieve or exceed minimum standards before being designated cancer centres following the implementation of his Department's guidance on improving cancer outcomes; [325013]

(2) what minimum standards his Department sets for the facilities to be provided by acute trusts applying to become cancer centres following the implementation of his Department's guidance on improving cancer outcomes; [325014]

(3) what consideration is given to the effect on the number of transfers between hospital sites by *(a)*

ambulance and *(b)* taxi of the centralisation of NHS cancer surgery under improving outcomes guidance issued by his Department; and what mechanism is in place to assess the effect on patient care. [325015]

Ann Keen: Decisions regarding the designation and placement of cancer centres are the responsibility of local national health service hospital trusts and primary care trusts, and are made in conjunction with cancer networks and other stakeholders.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published a series of Improving Outcomes Guidance covering all major cancer tumour types. They set out recommendations on how services for cancer patients should be organised in order to ensure the best outcomes. It is for NHS trusts to implement this guidance taking into account the needs of their local populations.

Care Homes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to bring forward legislation to ensure that care homes are treated as public authorities under the Human Rights Act 1998. [324998]

Phil Hope: Care homes are already treated as public authorities under the Human Rights Act 1998, when providing publicly-arranged residential care to an individual.

Section 145 (Human Rights Act 1998: provision of certain social care to be a public function) of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 came into force on 1 December 2008 in England.

This means that, when providing publicly-arranged residential care, independent sector care homes are required not to act incompatibly with the European Convention on Human Rights. It also means that the person receiving such care can bring proceedings against the care home under the Human Rights Act, for a breach of their Convention rights.

Carer's Allowance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals *(a)* are in receipt of carer's allowance and *(b)* were in receipt of carer's allowance in each of the last five years. [323899]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

Carers make a valuable contribution to society by providing important support for relatives, partners and friends who may be ill, frail, disabled or have mental health or substance misuse problems.

Support for carers must be tailored to meet the individual's needs; enabling carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside caring, while enabling the person they support to be a full and equal citizen. The revised National Carers Strategy, published in June 2008, commits the Government to investing some £255 million to support carers in the short term.

The available information is in the table.

Number of people in receipt of carer's allowance in Great Britain in the last five years

As at August each year	*Number*
2005	445,430
2006	456,700
2007	468,060
2008	490,030
2009	520,350

Notes:
1. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of the allowance, and excludes people with underlying entitlement but who receive no actual payment.
2. Carers entitled to receive carer's allowance may not be paid it because they receive an overlapping benefit equal to or greater than their weekly rate of carer's allowance.
3. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Cochlear Implants

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cochlear implants *(a)* adults and *(b)* children in England received in each year from 2000. [324898]

Phil Hope: Provided is the count of finished consultant episodes for cochlear implants broken down by age group, 2000-01 to 2008-09.

Count of finished consultant episodes for cochlear implants broken down age group, 2000-01 to 2008-09: Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Age group	*0-17*	*18+*	*Unknown*	*Total*
2008-09	402	417	2	821
2007-08	382	323	0	705
2006-07	338	219	0	557
2005-06	289	218	0	507
2004-05	269	211	0	480
2003-04	253	210	0	463
2002-03	215	188	1	404
2001-02	204	186	0	390
2000-01	199	174	0	373

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Recently there has been a revision of the methodology used to count the number of finished consultant episodes for cochlear implants and for this reason figures may not be consistent with previous data provided by the NHS Information Centre.

Data should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.

Community Care: Mentally Ill

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* community mental health teams and *(b)* members of community health teams there have been in each London borough in each year since 2000; and how much funding his Department has allocated to community mental health teams in each such borough in each such year. [323826]

Phil Hope: Local data prior to 2007 are not available. Data provided are from 2007 to 2009 for each primary care trust (PCT) area. The Department does not break down PCT revenue allocations by policies, at either the national or local level. It is for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally taking into account both local priorities and the "NHS Operating Framework".

Mental Health Services: Total community mental teams in London as at end of March 2007-09

	31 March 2009		*31 March 2008*		*31 March 2007*	
Local Implementation Teams (LIT) name	*Number of services*	*Total whole-time equivalent (WTE) staff*	*Number of services*	*Total WTE staff*	*Number of services*	*Total WTE staff*
London Strategic Health Authority total	135	2,766.62	132	2,743.3	133	2,694.4
Barking and Dagenham	2	40.48	2	44.82	2	42
Barnet	4	86.09	4	93.39	4	91.4
Bexley	4	68.17	4	63.6	4	57.69
Brent	5.83	101.49	2.83	90.26	3	113.22
Bromley	3	114.79	3	109.02	3	123.16
Camden	6.16	103.65	6.35	97.39	8	99.23
City and Hackney	2	89.4	2	91.4	3	78
Croydon	5	83.7	5	82.5	5	82.8
Ealing	4.03	120.76	4.2	121.6	4	115.22
Enfield	6	82.21	6	86.51	6	95.29
Greenwich	6	103.93	6	111.74	5	60.8
Hammersmith and Fulham	4	79.6	4.05	81.59	4	80.6
Haringey	5	105.39	4	114.42	4	100.6
Harrow	1.99	58.52	1.96	57.61	2	51
Havering	3	42.47	3	47.61	3	42.44
Hillingdon	3	80.2	2.86	74.87	3	88.5
Hounslow	3	92.31	3	76.75	3	85.01
Islington	5	77	5	80.48	5	76.75
Kensington and Chelsea	0.99	69.3	2.94	59.93	3	73.3
Kingston	5.02	67.93	5	69.99	5	67.63
Lambeth	6	123.67	6	123.67	6	123.67
Lewisham	3	90.9	3	90.9	3	88.5
Merton	3.53	45.48	3.45	40.58	5	48.97
Newham	4	97.7	4	102	4	92
Redbridge	2	54.45	2	53.05	2	57.25
Richmond and Twickenham	2.08	44.89	2	56.45	4	38.98
Southwark	10	139.26	10	160.66	4	139.93
Sutton	3.61	45.84	3.55	46.89	5	56.09
Tower Hamlets	4	111	4	106.9	4	103.47
Waltham Forest	2	47.48	2	46.58	2	51.18
Wandsworth	8.76	110	8	104.53	8	101.07
Westminster	7	168.56	6.81	155.61	7	168.65

Notes:
1. Staff data are counted at WTE
2. Some teams are shared with other LIT areas and this is shown as decimal for 2008 and 2009 collection.

Source:
Mental Health Strategies

Dental Services: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding he intends to allocate for the provision of NHS dental care in Leeds in each of the next three years; what plans he has to increase access to NHS dentistry in Leeds; and how many people are registered with an NHS dentist in *(a)* the city of Leeds and *(b)* West Yorkshire. [323830]

Ann Keen: We have invested a record £2 billion in dentistry and set up a national access programme to help the national health service deliver its commitment to provide access for all who seek it by 2011.

Access to NHS dentistry is growing. The latest data show that 1,230,000 more patients accessed NHS services in the 24 months ending December 2009 than compared to the 24 months ending June 2008.

We have also accepted the recommendations made by the independent review of NHS dentistry, to further improve access and quality in the long term, and will pilot these recommendations thoroughly.

Leeds Primary Care Trust (PCT) will receive a funding allocation of £32,428,000 in 2010-11 for primary dental care services. This is net of income from dental charges paid by patients, which is retained locally to supplement the resources available for dentistry. It will be for individual PCTs to judge whether additional investment is required. As a result of lower NHS service tariff prices following the incorporation of an additional 0.5 per cent. efficiency requirement, PCTs have headroom in their general NHS

2010-11 budgets to fund additional growth in dentistry and other services according to local development priorities.

Funding allocations to PCTs for 2011-12 and 2012-13 will be finalised as part of the next Spending Review. Funding for dentistry will be included within PCT unified funding allocations from 2011-12.

Information on how many people are registered with an NHS dentist is not available in the format requested.

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24 month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the number of patients seen in the previous 24 months, in England, is available in Table D1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 2: 30 September 2009 report. Information is available at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 31 December 2009 and is provided by PCT and by strategic health authority.

This report, published on 23 February 2010, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0910q2

Departmental Computer Software

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 699W, on Departmental ICT, what fonts were purchased through the expenditure on font licences in the last three years. [324342]

Phil Hope: Pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 699W, the fonts included in the expenditure of £18,112 on font licensing are as follows:

1,000 licences to use Sylvia and Apex Sans T typefaces for use by regional and local tobacco teams were purchased in 2006, plus an upgrade of the Sylvia licences in 2009 for Smokefree;

2,000 licences for the national health service font, Fruitger, were purchased for use by NHS organisations in 2009;

Syntax Complete Family Pack for one to five users was purchased in 2008 in connection with the Department website; and

Change4Life purchased a licence to distribute a custom Change4Life (people) font freely.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will issue guidance on his Department's policy on the relocation offshore of departmental jobs to companies bidding for contracts let by his Department. [324796]

Phil Hope: The Department has no plans to issue any guidance.

The Department is committed to getting best value for money when letting outsourcing contracts.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in real terms. [324806]

Phil Hope: There are currently no figures available for the financial year 2009-10. However, the cost to the Department for employing press and media officers (including planning and support staff) in the financial year 2008-09 was £1,412,000. This figure excludes social security and pension costs.

The Department does not hold financial information which is older than 10 years.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff his Department employed in each year since 1997. [324941]

Phil Hope: The numbers of both full-time and part-time staff employed by the Department in each year since 1970 are published on the civil service statistics website. This can be found at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/stats-archive/archived-reports.aspx

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department and its agencies spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what those items were. [324714]

Phil Hope: The Department advises against the use of departmental branding on promotional items, other than on occasional low-value items to support specific internal initiatives or conferences. Any such items are procured by individual teams within the Department and the Department does not hold central records on which items were procured and at what cost. To provide this information would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

The two agencies that receive funding from the Department are the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA).

We are informed by both NHS PASA and MHRA that they have not produced or issued any products featuring departmental branding in the last five years.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 22 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1654-55W, on departmental telephone services, whether his Department awarded contracts for the provision of services relating to the campaign-specific telephone lines and campaign-linked lines. [324116]

Phil Hope: The majority of the 13 campaign-specific call centres and other campaign-linked lines that I referred to in my previous answer were contracted via the Central Office of Information (COI). The COI will have conducted their own tender exercises as appropriate.

Three of the lines were not contracted via COI, two of these were commissioned with another Department while the other was commissioned through an agency.

Supporting services for the call centres such as data management or the fulfilment of publication requests would have been commissioned in the same way.

Diabetes: Chiropody

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with diabetes of each *(a)* gender and *(b)* age group in each primary care trust area had not had their bare feet checked by a podiatrist in each of the last five years. [324767]

Ann Keen: Data are not centrally collected in the format requested.

Information on the number of people with diabetes that receive a foot check is provided in the National Diabetes Audit (NDA) for 2007-08. This reports that 77 per cent. of people with diabetes in England had received a foot examination during the period. Data are available for each primary care trust for the period 2003-08. The NDA does not have complete cover for England, but adult data are now collected from all 152 primary care trusts with approximately 75 per cent. of all general practitioner practices contributing.

Data are not collected on which health care professional undertakes the foot check.

Direct Payments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will provide further guidance to local authorities on the data to be included in national indicators for personalised budgets. [324739]

Phil Hope: Further guidance will be provided to local authorities, which is expected to be made available via the Audit Commission Information Portal in the next few months.

Eating Disorders: Young People

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many young people were treated for eating disorders by *(a)* general practitioners, *(b)* children and adolescent mental health specialists and *(c)* other primary care specialists in the last 12 months; [323763]

(2) what steps his Department takes to assist parents and carers of young people with eating disorders. [323764]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of young people treated for eating disorders is not collected centrally.

We take the issue of eating disorders, especially among young people, very seriously. Services for people with eating disorders are available throughout the country in both primary and secondary care. We asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to publish guidelines for practitioners on core interventions for these disorders which it did in 2004. These guidelines will be reviewed in 2011.

We are also providing funding worth £131,000 for beat's (the eating disorders' charity) Pathway to Recovery project which provides a support network for people who have recovered from an eating disorder.

Food: Labelling

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what food labelling *(a)* regulations and *(b)* initiatives initiated by his Department since October 2008 have (i) not been delivered in line with the original schedule, (ii) been amended and (iii) been terminated. [324523]

Gillian Merron: The Food Standards Agency is responsible for food labelling policy. The regulatory changes listed, with the exception of fish labelling, emanated from changes in European Union law.

The following amendment regulations were not delivered in line with the original

schedule:

The Fish Labelling (England) Regulations 2010. There was a commitment during public consultation that these would come into force in December 2009. These are now coming into force on 6 April. These were delayed because of technical issues that arose during the preparation of the statutory instrument.

The Infant Formula and Follow-on Formula (England) Regulations 2007, amended in September 2008. The comings into force of labelling controls in this were delayed as a result of an industry-sponsored judicial review.

The following labelling regulations were amended:

The Food Labelling (Declaration of Allergens) (England) Regulations 2009, which was amended by Commission Regulation 415/2009/EC.

The following labelling initiatives have been amended:

The Food Standards Agency UK best practice guidance on Country of Origin Labelling, first published in 2002 was amended in October 2008;

No regulatory or other public labelling initiatives have been terminated since October 2008.

General Practitioners: Training

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training general practitioners receive on *(a)* referral pathways for cancer patients and *(b)* how such referral pathways can be utilised. [323688]

Ann Keen: The Department does not specify the content of the general practitioner (GP) training curriculum. GPs are expected to keep their knowledge and skills up to date throughout their working life, and take part in educational activities that maintain and further develop their competence and performance.

To support GPs in the referral of patients with suspected cancer, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence produced referral guidelines for suspected cancer in 2005. These guidelines are intended for use by health care professionals in primary care and can also be used in the education and training of health professionals. These guidelines are used together with local protocols for referral as agreed by the local provider and the primary care trust, and in line with national commitments for cancer waiting time standards.

Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to assess the level of access to health services by war veterans. [323910]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect information specific to veterans' access to the national health service nor on how many receive priority treatment.

NHS patients in England can expect to start their consultant-led treatment within a maximum of 18 weeks from referral unless they choose to wait longer or it is clinically appropriate that they do so. This applies to all NHS patients including veterans living in England.

The current operating framework for the NHS makes clear the need to take account of the health needs of service families and veterans when commissioning services.

Health Visitors

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors were working in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency, *(b)* region, *(c)* local authority area and *(d)* strategic health authority area in each of the last 10 years. [325018]

Ann Keen: National health service work force statistics are not available centrally broken down by parliamentary constituency, region and local authority area.

A table has been placed in the Library outlining the number of health visitors in England by strategic health authority area and by primary care trust. These data are available only from 2002 onwards.

Health Visitors: Children

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average health visitor caseload for cases involving children under five years old is in each London borough; [324579]

(2) what the average health visitor caseload for cases involving children under five years old is in *(a)* Manchester City, *(b)* Salford City, *(c)* Trafford borough, *(d)* Wigan borough, *(e)* Bolton borough, *(f)* Rochdale borough, *(g)* Tameside borough and *(i)* Stockport borough; [324580]

(3) what the average health visitor caseload for cases involving children under five years old is in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Wolverhampton, *(c)* Dudley, *(d)* Sandwell, *(e)* Walsall, *(f)* Solihull and *(g)* Coventry. [324581]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Health: Children

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects COVER reports under the Child Health Interim Application to be issued in London; and if he will make a statement. [324996]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 24 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 388-89W. Vaccination coverage statistics for children aged up to five years in the United Kingdom from July to December 2009 were published in the Health Protection Report issued by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) on 26 March 2010. This is published on the HPA website:

www.hpa.org.uk/hpr/infections/immunisation.htm#cover

Hospital Beds: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospital beds there were in each London *(a)* hospital and *(b)* borough in each year since 2000; [323735]

(2) how many hospital beds there were per 1,000 people in each London borough in each year since 2000; [323736]

(3) what the average occupancy rate was of hospital beds in each London *(a)* hospital and *(b)* borough in each year since 2000. [323737]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not available in the format requested. Information on hospital beds is available by national health service trust and not by individual hospital or region. NHS trusts do not cover specific areas.

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 158W, on injuries: offensive weapons, how many people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* between 16 and 18, *(c)* between 19 and 25, *(d)* between 26 and 35, *(e)* between 36 and 50 and *(f)* over 50 years were admitted to hospital in each primary care trust area in London as a result of assault with a (i) sharp and (ii) blunt object in (A) 2008 and (B) 2009; and how many such people required (1) emergency and (2) intensive care as a result of being assaulted with an (x) sharp and (y) blunt object in each of those years. [323948]

Gillian Merron: Information has been provided to show the number of finished admission episodes by selected cause codes and age groups, between 2007-08 and 2008-09 for primary care trusts (PCTs) of residence in the London area.

It is important to note that as people may be admitted on more than one occasion, the data supplied do not describe the number of people admitted to hospital. Additionally, information on the "PCT of residence" does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated, as they may have travelled to another strategic health authority or PCT for treatment.

We are unable to determine how many such people required emergency and intensive care as a result of being assaulted by a sharp and blunt object in each of those years.

Count of finished admission episodes where cause code indicates assault by a sharp object (X99) or blunt object (Y00) for selected London PCTs of residence by age breakdown 2007-08 and 2008-09. Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

X99 Assault by sharp object—2008-09

		Under 16 years	16-18 years	19-25 years	26-35 years	36-50 years	51 years and over
5A4	Havering PCT	—	*	*	7	*	*
5A5	Kingston PCT	*	—	*	*	*	—
5A7	Bromley PCT	—	*	*	8	7	*
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	*	6	*	7	6	*
5A9	Barnet PCT	—	*	9	*	*	*
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	*	*	10	6	*	*
5C1	Enfield PCT	*	6	19	10	*	*
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	*	10	14	9	*	*
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	*	14	13	14	11	—
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	6	8	13	7	6	*
5C5	Newham PCT	*	8	20	22	10	*
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	*	6	13	10	*	*
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	*	—	11	9	7	*
5HX	Ealing PCT	*	6	9	27	9	*
5HY	Hounslow PCT	*	*	9	9	6	*
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	*	*	6	9	7	*
5K6	Harrow PCT	—	*	11	*	*	*
5K7	Camden PCT	*	*	7	6	11	*
5K8	Islington PCT	*	*	14	*	9	*
5K9	Croydon PCT	*	7	9	15	*	*
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	*	*	6	*	*	—
5LC	Westminster PCT	*	*	9	12	*	—
5LD	Lambeth PCT	*	13	19	18	*	*
5LE	Southwark PCT	13	13	24	15	14	*
5LF	Lewisham PCT	*	6	19	*	10	—
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	*	8	13	*	*	*
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	—	*	*	*	*	*
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	0	*	7	8	*	*
5NA	Redbridge PCT	*	6	*	*	*	*
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	*	7	9	6	12	*
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	—	*	*	6	6	*

Y00 assault by blunt object—2008-09

		Under 16 years	16-18 years	19-25 years	26-35 years	36-50 years	51 years and over
5A4	Havering PCT	*	—	*	*	*	*
5A5	Kingston PCT	—	*	—	*	*	—
5A7	Bromley PCT	—	*	*	*	*	*
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	—	*	*	*	*	*
5A9	Barnet PCT	*	—	6	*	*	*
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	—	*	*	6	*	*
5C1	Enfield PCT	*	—	6	*	*	*
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	*	*	*	6	*	*
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	—	*	*	*	*	—
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	—	—	8	8	8	*
5C5	Newham PCT	*	*	11	8	10	*
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	*	*	*	*	*	*
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	—	—	*	*	7	*
5HX	Ealing PCT	*	*	6	14	9	—
5HY	Hounslow PCT	*	*	6	7	6	*
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	—	*	*	6	*	*
5K6	Harrow PCT	*	—	*	*	*	—
5K7	Camden PCT	—	—	*	*	*	*
5K8	Islington PCT	—	*	*	*	6	*
5K9	Croydon PCT	—	*	*	*	8	*
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	—	6	*	*	*	—
5LC	Westminster PCT	—	—	—	*	—	*
5LD	Lambeth PCT	*	*	*	*	*	*
5LE	Southwark PCT	—	*	*	11	*	*
5LF	Lewisham PCT	*	*	*	*	6	*
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	—	*	*	*	*	*

Y00 assault by blunt object—2008-09

		Under 16 years	16-18 years	19-25 years	26-35 years	36-50 years	51 years and over
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	—	*	—	—	*	—
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	*	*	6	*	*	*
5NA	Redbridge PCT	*	*	6	*	*	*
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	*	—	12	7	*	*
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	*	—	*	*	*	—

X99 Assault by sharp object—2007-08

		Under 16 years	16-18 years	19-25 years	26-35 years	36-50 years	51 years and over	Age not known
5A4	Havering PCT	—	*	10	6	7	*	—
5A5	Kingston PCT	*	*	*	*	—	—	—
5A7	Bromley PCT	*	*	7	—	*	*	—
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	*	11	15	*	10	*	—
5A9	Barnet PCT	*	*	*	6	*	*	—
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	*	*	10	11	*	*	—
5C1	Enfield PCT	*	11	14	9	8	—	—
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	*	10	10	10	8	—	—
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	7	17	26	14	12	*	—
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	*	6	17	9	17	*	—
5C5	Newham PCT	7	17	29	20	*	*	—
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	*	9	17	10	8	*	—
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	*	*	12	7	13	*	—
5HX	Ealing PCT	*	*	22	13	9	*	*
5HY	Hounslow PCT	*	*	6	10	7	*	—
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	—	13	13	15	6	*	—
5K6	Harrow PCT	*	*	*	*	*	*	—
5K7	Camden PCT	*	6	11	11	8	*	—
5K8	Islington PCT	*	6	13	12	13	*	—
5K9	Croydon PCT	*	9	20	14	8	*	—
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	*	*	11	*	—	—	—
5LC	Westminster PCT	—	*	11	*	9	*	—
5LD	Lambeth PCT	10	27	15	19	10	*	—
5LE	Southwark PCT	9	19	12	10	13	*	—
5LF	Lewisham PCT	*	13	19	10	15	*	—
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	*	7	8	7	6	*	—
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	—	*	*	*	—	—	—
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	—	7	*	7	14	*	—
5NA	Redbridge PCT	*	7	9	12	*	*	—
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	*	10	25	11	10	*	—
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	—	*	7	6	*	*	—

Y00 Assault by blunt object—2007-08

		Under 16 years	16-18 years	19-25 years	26-35 years	36-50 years	51years and over
5A4	Havering PCT	*	*	6	6	—	—
5A5	Kingston PCT	—	—	*	—	6	—
5A7	Bromley PCT	*	*	*	*	—	—
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	*	*	*	*	*	*
5A9	Barnet PCT	*	*	*	6	7	*
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	*	*	7	*	*	*
5C1	Enfield PCT	—	*	*	*	—	*
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	—	*	6	*	*	*
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	*	—	*	*	*	*
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	*	*	6	*	*	—
5C5	Newham PCT	—	15	15	14	11	*
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	*	*	*	*	6	*
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	—	—	—	*	*	—
5HX	Ealing PCT	*	—	9	12	*	—
5HY	Hounslow PCT	*	*	7	6	6	*
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	*	*	*	*	6	*

Y00 Assault by blunt object—2007-08

		Under 16 years	16-18 years	19-25 years	26-35 years	36-50 years	51 years and over
5K6	Harrow PCT	*	*	8	—	—	*
5K7	Camden PCT	*	*	*	*	*	*
5K8	Islington PCT	*	*	9	7	*	*
5K9	Croydon PCT	*	*	8	6	7	*
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	*	*	*	*	*	*
5LC	Westminster PCT	—	*	—	*	*	—
5LD	Lambeth PCT	*	*	*	6	6	—
5LE	Southwark PCT	*	*	9	*	*	*
5LF	Lewisham PCT	*	*	*	*	*	*
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	*	*	*	6	*	*
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	—	*	*	—	—	—
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	*	*	6	*	*	—
5NA	Redbridge PCT	—	*	8	*	7	*
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	*	*	7	6	6	*
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	—	*	*	*	*	*

Notes:
1. Ungrossed data (i.e. not adjusted for shortfalls).
2. Small numbers
To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was still possible to identify numbers from the total an additional number (the next smallest) has been replaced.
3. Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the Year.
4. SHA/PCT of residence
The strategic health authority (SHA) or primary care trust (PCT) containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.
5. Activity included
Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
6. Cause code
A supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode is counted in HES.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Malnutrition: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in a *(a)* private and *(b)* public care home were (i) admitted to and (ii) discharged from hospital with a diagnosis of malnutrition in each London borough in each year since 2000. [323789]

Phil Hope: Information is not held in the format requested.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds days were occupied as a result of malnutrition in each London borough in each year since 2000. [323791]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not held in the format requested.

The following tables show the count of finished consultant episode (FCE) bed days where the primary diagnosis was malnutrition split by primary care trust (PCT) of residence within the London strategic health authority from 2000-01 to 2008-09

Count of finished consultant episode bed days for patients resident in the primary care trusts of London strategic health authority, where the primary diagnosis was malnutrition from 2000-01 to 2008-09

	2008-09		2007-08		2006-07		2005-06		2004-05	
Name of PCT	Total episode duration of FCEs	Number of finished consultant episodes	Total episode duration of FCEs	Number of finished consultant episodes	Total episode duration of FCEs	Number of finished consultant episodes	Total episode duration of FCEs	Number of finished consultant episodes	Total episode duration of FCEs	Number of finished consultant episodes
Havering PCT	45	*	13	*	0	0	0	0	10	*
Kingston PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	*
Bromley PCT	0	0	6	*	69	*	16	*	8	*
Greenwich Teaching PCT	9	*	0	*	16	10	29	*	0	0
Barnet PCT	5	*	2	*	0	*	39	*	34	*
Hillingdon PCT	0	0	3	*	0	0	15	*	6	*
Bexley PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enfield PCT	0	0	0	*	18	7	6	*	0	0
Barking and Dagenham PCT	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0

Count of finished consultant episode bed days for patients resident in the primary care trusts of London strategic health authority, where the primary diagnosis was malnutrition from 2000-01 to 2008-09

	2008-09		2007-08		2006-07		2005-06		2004-05	
Name of PCT	*Total episode duration of FCEs*	*Number of finished consultant episodes*	*Total episode duration of FCEs*	*Number of finished consultant episodes*	*Total episode duration of FCEs*	*Number of finished consultant episodes*	*Total episode duration of FCEs*	*Number of finished consultant episodes*	*Total episode duration of FCEs*	*Number of finished consultant episodes*
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	4	*	8	8	9	*	12	*	16	*
Tower Hamlets PCT	0	0	14	*	10	12	6	*	3	*
Newham PCT	40	*	8	*	5	*	8	*	13	*
Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Redbridge PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haringey Teaching PCT	17	*	26	*	0	0	0	0	14	*
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	0	0	2	*	0	0	14	*	0	0
Ealing PCT	5	*	11	*	3	*	17	*	3	*
Hounslow PCT	0	*	21	*	0	*	1	*	10	*
Brent Teaching PCT	15	*	9	*	10	*	0	0	19	*
Harrow PCT	5	*	6	*	0	0	2	*	0	0
Camden PCT	2	*	0	0	6	*	0	0	12	*
Islington PCT	3	*	33	*	0	0	16	*	11	*
Croydon PCT	0	0	12	*	2	*	0	0	14	*
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	9	*	14	*	0	0	3	*	0	0
Westminster PCT	8	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	*
Lambeth PCT	1	*	5	6	4	8	38	*	0	0
Southwark PCT	8	7	8	*	20	*	15	7	0	0
Lewisham PCT	0	*	9	*	9	*	21	*	1	*
Wandsworth PCT	6	*	3	*	0	0	0	0	2	*
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5	7	7	*	7	6	0	0	11	*
Sutton and Merton PCT	0	0	31	*	2	*	7	*	14	*
Redbridge PCT	22	*	0	0	19	*	6	*	0	0
Waltham Forest PCT	73	*	5	*	7	*	0	0	8	*
Bexley Care Trust	41	7	24	*	0	*	0	*	86	*

	2003-04		2002-03		2001-02		2000-01	
Name of PCT	*Total episode duration of FCEs*	*Number of finished consultant episodes*	*Total episode duration of FCEs*	*Number of finished consultant episodes*	*Total episode duration of FCEs*	*Number of finished consultant episodes*	*Total episode duration of FCEs*	*Number of finished consultant episodes*
Havering PCT	6	*	9	*	20	*	0	0
Kingston PCT	0	0	14	*	24	*	0	0
Bromley PCT	2	*	0	0	0	0	9	*
Greenwich Teaching PCT	0	*	0	0	17	*	1	*
Barnet PCT	0	0	9	*	0	0	12	*
Hillingdon PCT	0	*	7	*	11	*	0	0
Bexley PCT	0	0	3	*	0	0	0	0
Enfield PCT	0	0	25	*	4	*	3	*
Barking and Dagenham PCT	0	0	55	*	0	0	0	0

Name of PCT	2003-04		2002-03		2001-02		2000-01	
	Total episode duration of FCEs	*Number of finished consultant episodes*	*Total episode duration of FCEs*	*Number of finished consultant episodes*	*Total episode duration of FCEs*	*Number of finished consultant episodes*	*Total episode duration of FCEs*	*Number of finished consultant episodes*
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	0	*	11	*	14	*	10	*
Tower Hamlets PCT	1	*	0	0	4	*	0	*
Newham PCT	0	0	0	0	22	6	22	*
Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT	—	—	11	*	19	*	17	*
Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	—	—	0	0	13	*	0	*
Redbridge PCT	—	—	0	0	0	0	21	*
Haringey Teaching PCT	0	0	0	0	33	*	61	*
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	13	*	4	*	3	*	43	*
Ealing PCT	6	*	5	*	4	*	6	*
Hounslow PCT	0	0	8	8	45	*	26	*
Brent Teaching PCT	0	0	1	*	0	0	0	0
Harrow PCT	0	*	17	*	55	*	32	*
Camden PCT	35	*	13	*	5	*	3	*
Islington PCT	11	*	9	*	6	*	26	*
Croydon PCT	6	*	18	*	14	*	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5	*	5	*	0	0	29	*
Westminster PCT	54	*	0	0	0	0	32	*
Lambeth PCT	20	8	13	*	5	*	11	*
Southwark PCT	7	*	14	*	9	*	5	*
Lewisham PCT	1	*	0	0	13	*	68	*
Wandsworth PCT	0	0	6	*	23	*	0	*
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	87	*	0	0	43	*	0	0
Sutton and Merton PCT	29	*	0	*	0	0	17	*
Redbridge PCT	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Waltham Forest PCT	2	*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bexley Care Trust	7	*	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes:

1. *Finished consultant episode (FCE)*

FCE is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. It should be noted that the figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

2. *Episode duration/Bed Days*

Episode duration is calculated as the difference in days between the episode start date and the episode end date, where both are given. Episode duration is based on finished consultant episodes and only applies to ordinary admissions, i.e. day cases are excluded (unless otherwise stated).

3. *Primary diagnosis*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

4. *ICD10 codes for Malnutrition*

The ICD-10 codes for Malnutrition are:
E40.X Kwashiorkor
E41.X Nutritional marasmus
E42.X Marasmic kwashiorkor
E43.X Unspecified severe protein-energy malnutrition
E44.X Protein energy malnutrition of moderate and mild degree
E45.X Retarded development following protein-energy malnutrition
E46.X Unspecified protein-energy malnutrition
025.X Malnutrition in pregnancy

5. *PCT Changes*

In July 2006, the national health service reorganised strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England from 28 SHAs into 10, and from 303 PCTs into 152. As a result data from 2006-07 onwards is not directly comparable with previous years. Please note the following changes in PCTs in 2003-04: Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT became Waltham Forest PCT; Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT and Redbridge PCT became Redbridge PCT; and Bexley PCT became Bexley Care Trust.

6. *Assessing growth through time*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

7. *Data quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

8. *Small numbers*

To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.

Mental Health Services: Young Offender Institutions

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 678W, on young offenders: mental health services, how many young offenders at each institution were referred to *(a)* acute and *(b)* non-acute local child and adolescent mental health services in each year from 2002 to 2009. [323942]

Phil Hope: The information is not collected centrally.

Transfer of the responsibility for commissioning health services in young offender institutions, and adult prisons in England, was fully devolved to the national health service by April 2006. NHS primary care trusts work with their partner establishments to develop a comprehensive health needs assessment of the population and commission on the basis of that need.

All young offender institutions in England holding under-18s have access to comprehensive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services as defined in the National Service Framework (NSF) for children.

The document "Promoting Mental Health for children held in secure settings: A Framework for Commissioning Services" (DH March 2007) was developed to support primary care trusts with custodial units in their area to plan, commission and deliver requirements as per the Children's NSF.

Myasthenia Gravis: Research

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Government funding has been allocated to research into myasthenia gravis in each year since 1997. [323762]

Gillian Merron: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body that receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

MRC expenditure in recent years on research of relevance to myasthenia has been as follows:

	£000
2003-04	89
2004-05	206
2005-06	238
2006-07	240
2007-08	214
2008-09	323

There were no live MRC projects in 2001-02 and 2002-03.

Allocations made from the Department's research and development budget have over the last 10 years been used by some research active national health service organisations to support research into myasthenia gravis. Information about the cost of that support is not held centrally. Details of the individual projects undertaken from 2000 to 2007 are available on the archived national research register at:

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 171-3W, on the NHS: information and communications technology, how many contractor event of default notices were issued to National Programme for IT suppliers in 2009; how many have been issued in 2010 to date; on what dates and to whom such notices have been issued; what the reasons for the issue were in each case; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such notice. [323961]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is in the following table.

Contractor/date of issue	*Reason for notice*
CSC	
6 January 2009	Failure to achieve an Early Adopter Key Milestone
1 June 2009	Failure to achieve an Early Adopter Release Key Milestone
	Failure to achieve Release Key Milestone
11 August 2009	Failure to achieve a Release Key Milestone
	Failure to achieve an Early Adopter Release Key Milestone
19 August 2009	Failure to achieve a Deployment Key Milestone
	4 x Failure to achieve a Go Live Milestone
	Failure to submit a Remediation Plan
20 August 2009	Failure to submit a Detailed Implementation Plan Quarter (Q) 2
25 August 2009	9 x critical service level failures
2 September 2009	4 x Failure to achieve an Early Adopter Deployment Key Milestone
	Failure to submit a Detailed Implementation Plan Q3
	3 x Failure to achieve a Milestone
	Failure to achieve an Early Adopter Milestone

Contractor/date of issue	Reason for notice
	3 x Failure to achieve an Interim Milestone
12 October 2009	Failure to achieve a Release Key Milestone
25 October 2009	2 x Failure to achieve an Interim Milestone Failure to make a payment
22 December 2009	2 x Failure to achieve a Release Key Milestone
24 December 2009	Failure to submit a Detailed Implementation Plan Q4 Failure to achieve an Early Adopter Deployment Key Milestone
BT	
26 August 2009	6 x Critical service level failures
25 September 2009	10 x Critical service level failures
22 October 2009	3 x Critical service level failures
27 October 2009	19 x Critical service level failure
20 November 2009	4 x Critical service level failure
4 January 2010	6 x Critical service level failure
1 February 2010	5 x Critical service level failure
24 February 2010	13 x Critical service level failures
4 March 2010	4 x Critical service level failure
16 March 2010	No of calls answered
Accenture	
25 August 2009	3 x Repeat failure
2 November 2009	3 x Critical service level failure 4 x Repeat failure
21 December 2009	19 x Repeat failures
10 February 2010	4 x Critical service level failure—November 2008 4 x Critical service level failure—December 2008
8 March 2010	3 x Critical service level failure, 4 x Repeat failure—November 2009 11 x Repeat failure—December 2009 7 x Repeat failure—January 2010

The Department demands a very high level of compliance from its suppliers and contractor event of default notices reflect operational matters identified during the normal course of contract delivery that need to be addressed. The majority of the matters identified have been addressed using the existing contractual remedies. Publication of contractor event of default notices would or would be likely to cause prejudice to the commercial interests of the providers concerned. It would also potentially compromise the Department's position in any possible future formal contractual disputes, which in turn would or would be likely to cause prejudice to the commercial interests of the Department.

NHS: Medical Treatments

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on access to proton beam therapy for NHS patients; and if he will make a statement. [322531]

Ann Keen: At this time, proton beam therapy for NHS patients is nationally commissioned overseas. The National Commissioning Group established a proton therapy clinical reference panel in April 2008 to advise on suitable cancer cases to be referred overseas for treatment.

The National Specialised Commissioning Team (NSCT) have been asked to move to the next stage in the development of proton beam therapy services in this country by holding a competition to identify a possible provider or providers of proton beam services in England and developing a full business case.

The Department is currently working with the NSCT to evaluate early proposals from eight trusts and identify a short-list of potential providers. A business case will then be developed for submission to the Treasury.

NHS: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of NHS expenditure per

head of population in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England in 2010-11. [324942]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Revenue allocations made to Northamptonshire Teaching Primary Care Trust and the total for England in 2010-11 are given in the following table, along with the allocation per head.

2010-11

	Allocation (£ million)	*Per-head allocation (£)*
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	983.4	1,422
England	84,432.4	1,612

Source:
Financial Planning and Allocations Division, Department of Health.

Nurses: Pay

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average salary of an NHS ward nurse was in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [323598]

Ann Keen: The average salary of a national health service ward nurse is not collected separately from the average salary for qualified nurses, midwives and health visitors working in hospitals as well as other parts of the NHS. The following table shows the average salary of qualified nurses from 2005-06 to 2008-09, the latest year for which figures are available.

	£
2005-06	28,784
2006-07	29,861
2007-08	31,149
2008-09	32,339

Notes:
1. Average salaries are estimated from the qualified nurse paybill figures using NHS accounts data together with the NHS pension scheme rates, and national insurance rates and thresholds that apply to NHS employers.
2. The paybill data includes all qualified nurses employed by NHS trusts, primary care trusts, strategic health authorities and foundation trusts in England. It excludes agency nurses.
3. Foundation trusts do not submit a breakdown of their paybill by staff group. Figures from 2004-05 onwards include estimates for the breakdown of each foundation trust.

Sources:
Department of Health Paybill Model 2008-09.
Trust Financial Returns and Foundation Trust Annual Reports (Paybill data).
Information Centre Workforce Census (Staff Numbers).

Nurses: Schools

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects his Department's target for one qualified school nurse to be allocated to each secondary school and its cluster of primary schools to be met. [324814]

Ann Keen: Working in partnership across health and education we have made good progress in expanding the qualified school nursing work force.

Linking primary schools to their nearest secondary school gives about 3,000 clusters in England. The 2009 work force census showed there were 4,177 (headcount) qualified nurses working in school health services, which is an increase of 1,768 or 73 per cent. since 2004. Of these, there were 1,620 (headcount) nurses with the post registration school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 764 or 89 per cent. since 2004.

Nurses: Vacancies

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of nursing vacancies in the NHS at the end of August 2010. [323769]

Ann Keen: We do not hold estimates of likely vacancies centrally.

Vacancy data as at 31 March are published annually by the NHS Information Centre in August of the same year.

Patients: Safety

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* fatal and *(b)* other patient safety incidents in the latest year for which figures were available; and how many such incidents of each type there were in that year. [323913]

Ann Keen: The following table, supplied by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA), sets out the number of incidents reported in England by degree of harm and incident type that occurred for the period July 2008 to June 2009.

Incidents of harm reported to NPSA by incident type, July 2008 to June 2009—England

	Number of incidents					
Incident type	*No harm*	*Low*	*Moderate*	*Severe*	*Death*	*Total*
England						
Other	21,280	9,337	3,127	739	1,670	36,171
Infection Control Incident	8,458	4,148	2,798	705	354	16,463
Implementation of care and ongoing monitoring/review	16,387	14,803	6,098	948	156	38,392
Self-harming behaviour	11,057	15,256	2,809	367	430	29,919
Treatment, procedure	54,451	27,643	12,240	1,362	406	96,102
Clinical assessment (including diagnosis, scans, tests, assessments)	31,252	7,170	2,702	538	175	41,837
Patient abuse (by staff/third party)	4,280	1,291	336	71	15	5,993

Incidents of harm reported to NPSA by incident type, July 2008 to June 2009—England

	Number of incidents					
Incident type	*No harm*	*Low*	*Moderate*	*Severe*	*Death*	*Total*
Access, admission, transfer, discharge (including missing patient)	56,118	14,389	4,756	520	126	75,909
Consent, communication, confidentiality	28,254	5,134	1,339	205	49	35,001
Medical device/equipment	21,353	5,057	1,443	153	43	28,029
Infrastructure (including staffing, facilities, environment)	44,720	7,909	2,856	269	43	55,797
Patient accident	103,266	103,471	11,936	1,358	179	302,210
Medication	73,950	13,060	3,019	351	59	90,439
Disruptive, aggressive behaviour	26,300	11,915	1,382	98	18	39,696
Documentation (including records, identification)	47,296	5,355	886	89	12	53,638
Total	630,360	245,918	37,708	7,773	3,735	945,497

Postgraduate Education

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for the future of its restrictions on access to post-graduate medical education for non-EEA graduates; and if he will make a statement. [324649]

Ann Keen: The Department undertook a consultation exercise about managing medical migration last year and there was strong support for the restrictions on access to post-graduate medical education by non-European economic area graduates and there has been no change in circumstance since then that indicates a review is required.

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 925W, on health services: disadvantage, what the total population was of *(a)* spearhead and *(b)* non-spearhead area primary care trusts in each year. [323836]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

The following table contains for Spearhead and non-Spearhead primary care trusts population estimates for mid-2006 to mid-2008, and population projections for mid-2009 from ONS 2006-based Subnational Population Projections.

Population estimates/projections for Spearhead and non-Spearhead Primary Care Trusts, mid-2006 to mid-2009

			Thousand
	Spearhead PCTs	*Non-Spearhead PCTs*	*Total*
Mid-2009	18,434	33,454	51,888
Mid-2008	18,289	33,158	51,446
Mid-2007	18,195	32,897	51,092
Mid-2006	15,638	35,125	50,763

Notes:
1. The Spearhead Group is identified in terms of local authority areas. It comprises the 'worst' fifth of local authorities for at least three out of five selected indicators, covering male life expectancy at birth, female life expectancy at birth, cancer mortality rate for under 75s, circulatory disease mortality rate for under 75s, and the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 average score.
2. Spearhead PCTs are those that overlap geographically, either wholly or partly, with the Spearhead local authorities. Spearhead PCTs on old and new boundaries cover slightly different populations.
3. Figures for mid-2007 to mid-2009 are based on PCT boundaries following the October 2006 NHS reorganisation. Mid-2006 figures are based on old PCT boundaries.
4. The figures for mid-2006 to mid-2008 are population estimates, the figures for mid-2009 are population projections from ONS 2006-based Subnational Population Projections.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on deaf and hearing impaired people of the Learning and Skills Council's decision to reduce funding for adult further education, including qualifications in British Sign Language by £200 million in 2010-11. [324734]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) are responsible for the funding of further education (FE) and skills training for adult learners aged 19 and over.

The Skills Investment Strategy (November 2009) set out measures that would make £340 million of efficiency savings in the 2010-11 financial year. Despite these savings, investment in adult participation budget will be £3.5 billion in 2010-11 financial year: an increase of 2.9 per cent. compared with 2009-10 financial year.

Within the total investment, we have committed to maintaining funding for the same volumes of learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities as a priority group of learners. This may include individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. It is for FE colleges and training organisations to determine their offer to these learners in line with their level of need.

Apprentices: Equality

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to question 322635, what recent initiatives his Department has funded to increase gender equality in participation in level 3 advanced apprenticeships. [325004]

Kevin Brennan: Apprenticeships are open to those aged 16 and over, regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability or religious belief. Participation in apprenticeships has increased threefold over the last decade. A great deal of work is being, done to improve access further and increase gender equality in participation at all levels.

The percentage of young women following an apprenticeship framework at Level 3 rather than Level 2 has risen from 14 per cent. in 2003/04 to 18 per cent. in 2008/09. The percentage of young men on an advanced apprenticeship has remained at 31 per cent.

Recent activity to address gender inequalities in apprenticeships includes:

Creation of the National Apprenticeships Service (NAS) with end-to-end responsibility for apprenticeships delivery. NAS is under a same legal duty to promote equality and diversity and one of their objectives is to:

"Increase the number, quality and background of people applying for Apprenticeships."

NAS work with employers to help them understand and be more responsive to the needs of learners in non-traditional occupations, and promote Apprenticeships to people from these groups.

NAS are working to develop resources on apprenticeships for careers education in schools and with information advice and guidance providers to encourage young people to think about apprenticeships in a non-stereotypical way.

Extending apprenticeships to over 25's has seen a greater number of women taking up an apprenticeship. 63 per cent. of people aged 25 and over starting an apprenticeship in 2008/09 were female.

We have invested £7 million to create Group Training Associations and Apprenticeship Training Agencies, with a specific remit to encourage atypical learners to take up apprenticeships.

We have also invested £2.3 million to create diversity pilots in targeted areas for gender, BME and disabled learners, those in non-traditional occupations and their employers.

NAS have set up an online mentoring platform through horse's mouth—open to all apprentices. 54 mentors registered so far.

The minimum wage for apprentices increased from £80 to £95 a week last year. It is young women—apprentices like those in hairdressing and care—who have benefitted most from this increase. On 25 March 2010 the Government announced their acceptance of the Low Pay Commission's recommendations concerning apprenticeship pay. This will mean that from 1 October 2010 the present exemption from the NMW for apprentices will be ended and all apprentices in the United Kingdom must be paid at least £2.50 an hour.

We have also committed £5 million to develop new frameworks at Levels 3 and 4 and we are creating up to 35,000 new advanced apprenticeship places for 19 to 30-year-olds over the next two years.

Brussels Forum 2010

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who will represent the UK at the Brussels Forum 2010. [324604]

Ian Lucas: The UK will be represented by senior officials from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Business: Government Assistance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many businesses are in receipt of assistance under the Working Capital Scheme; [317255]

(2) how many businesses have applied for funding under the Working Capital Scheme since 1 November 2008. [317254]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Working Capital Scheme (WCS) has provided guarantees to two banks on portfolios of short-term loans with good credit risk in order to release regulatory capital to enable those banks to increase lending to businesses. The two banks with WCS guarantees, Lloyds Banking Group and Royal Bank of Scotland, have made lending commitments of £39 billion.

Public Borrowing Review 2009 announced that as the broader asset protection scheme now provides banks with considerably greater capital release, so new portfolios will not be guaranteed under the WCS although existing portfolio guarantees will remain until March 2011. Because the WCS was only available to banks, companies were not eligible to apply.

Competition Commission: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1091W, on the Competition Commission: public relations, what briefing documents Euro RSCG Apex Communications has produced for the Competition Commission in the last three years. [324201]

Kevin Brennan: Euro RSCG Apex Communications has not produced any briefing documents for the Competition Commission. As detailed in the previous answer referred to Euro RSCG Apex Communications has provided occasional advice to the Commission over the past three years, mainly in relation to stakeholder communications. Such advice has normally been provided through meetings or by commenting on particular documents.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324569]

Mr. McFadden: The gym facilities in the Department are funded by subscriptions of members of the Department's Sports and Social Association or Civil Service Sports Council.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 394W, on departmental internet, what the cost of each such website redesign was. [324889]

Mr. McFadden: Detailed information about the costs of the Department's websites since June 2007, including redesigns, is readily available on the BIS website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/site/costs-usage

The cost of the 2006 redesign of the then DTI website was an estimated £175,000, as noted in the response to a Freedom of Information request published 16 June 2006 on the BIS website, titled 'Accessibility of DTI website' at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/site/foi/information-released

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what events have been hosted by his Department in each of the last 12 months. [324106]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* The information requested is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Energy: Prices

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what powers his Department has to protect consumers from unfair competition and profiteering in respect of *(a)* retail motor fuel prices, *(b)* retail home heating oil and *(c)* the price of oil used by commerce and industry; and if he will make a statement. [324281]

Kevin Brennan: The Competition Act 1998 and the Enterprise Act 2002 contain a range of powers to protect consumers from unfair competition in the UK economy including the markets for petrol retailing, home heating oil and oil used by Industry.

As the UK's independent competition authority, the Office of Fair Trading has been given significant powers to investigate and enforce competition law.

These powers allow OFT to investigate agreements and practices that are designed to prevent, restrict or distort competition or abuses of market dominance.

They also allow the OFT to investigate markets where they are not working to the benefit of consumers. Sectoral regulators also have concurrent powers to investigate and enforce competition law in their relevant sectors.

The OFT will take seriously any complaints or any other information it receives about these markets and will use its powers to investigate where appropriate.

Fusion Power: Research

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much Government funding has been allocated to research and development in relation to fusion power in each year since the UK fusion programme began. [323744]

Mr. Lammy: Figures for the Government funding of nuclear fusion research in the UK are available from financial year 1974/75 and are given as follows. The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) took over the responsibility for funding the fusion programme in 2003/04 and its subsequent funding is also provided.

EURATOM also fund fusion research in the UK through the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. The UK contributes indirectly to the EURATOM European fusion research programme through its payments to the EU budget.

Financial year	*UK Government expenditure on fusion research (£ million)*
1974/75	4.3
1975/76	5.7
1976/77	6.6
1977/78	7.3
1978/79	8.3
1979/80	10.5
1980/81	11.4
1981/82	17.3
1982/83	12.5
1983/84	14.1
1984/85	18.9
1985/86	21.1
1986/87	23.1
1987/88	22.0
1988/89	24.1
1989/90	24.1
1990/91	21.9
1991/92	20.1
1992/93	16.3
1993/94	16.0
1994/95	15.9
1995/96	15.7
1996/97	12.1
1997/98	16.6
1998/99	12.6
1999/2000	14.3
2000/01	17.0
2001/02	14.4
2002/03	14.6

Financial year	*EPSRC funding for fusion research (£million)*
2003/04	15.9
2004/05	19.4
2005/06	17.3
2006/07	22.3
2007/08	21.7
2008/09	32.6

Higher Education: Admissions

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 594-96W, on higher education: free school meals, if he will provide the figures by *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority. [324833]

Mr. Lammy: The following figures show pupils who were in English maintained schools and aged 15 at the start of academic years 2001/02 and 2002/03 who progressed to HE by the age of 19 (in 2005/06 and 2006/07 respectively)

by local authority. Figures are not available by parliamentary constituency. 2005/06 is the earliest year for which these figures are available.

Care should be exercised when comparing figures across local authorities as the numbers of free school meal children will vary significantly at local authority level. These figures have been estimated using matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record. Figures for 2007/08 will be available later this year.

Estimates of the proportion of pupils aged 15 in 2001/02 and 2002/03 academic years, in English maintained schools, who progressed to HE[1] by the age of 19 in 2005/06 and 2006/07 respectively, by local authority

Percentage

Local authority	*Young persons in UK HE*				*Of which: Russell Group HEIs*			
	FSM[2]		*Non-FSM[2]*		*FSM[2]*		*Non-FSM[2]*	
	2005/06	*2006/07*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Camden	29	30	43	44	3	3	13	10
Greenwich	14	17	28	24	1	1	2	2
Hackney	28	31	28	34	4	1	4	3
Hammersmith and Fulham	23	26	49	49	1	3	13	13
Islington	22	26	22	30	2	*	2	3
Kensington and Chelsea	29	38	43	48	5	5	8	10
Lambeth	18	20	30	36	1	1	5	3
Lewisham	20	20	31	33	3	1	5	5
Southwark	21	19	24	30	1	1	3	3
Tower Hamlets	24	25	29	33	1	1	3	3
Wandsworth	27	22	38	37	2	2	7	7
Westminster	28	35	37	38	2	3	7	7
Barking and Dagenham	13	17	22	22	1	2	2	2
Barnet	28	27	51	50	3	3	17	15
Bexley	15	11	32	32	2	*	5	5
Brent	30	32	47	53	3	3	7	10
Bromley	16	15	41	38	2	1	10	10
Croydon	19	21	32	35	1	1	5	5
Ealing	28	30	48	53	3	2	7	8
Enfield	24	26	41	41	2	1	8	7
Haringey	21	22	35	37	2	1	7	6
Harrow	27	27	54	51	4	2	11	9
Havering	11	10	30	32	0	2	5	4
Hillingdon	13	18	35	38	1	2	5	4
Hounslow	26	26	46	44	2	3	8	7
Kingston upon Thames	24	22	48	50	1	3	15	16
Merton	13	22	32	35	*	2	5	5
Newham	30	29	39	41	2	2	4	4
Redbridge	30	35	50	53	4	3	10	11
Richmond upon Thames	19	19	39	39	1	2	9	8
Sutton	15	20	49	48	1	2	16	14
Waltham Forest	25	26	34	36	1	1	4	3
Birmingham	18	18	37	38	2	2	9	10
Coventry	14	15	33	32	1	1	5	4
Dudley	9	12	30	29	1	1	7	6
Sandwell	12	15	24	21	1	1	3	2
Solihull	14	12	36	38	1	1	9	8
Walsall	12	13	31	29	1	1	6	4
Wolverhampton	13	14	35	34	1	1	6	5
Knowsley	8	10	20	24	1	1	3	3
Liverpool	12	14	35	34	2	2	10	9
St. Helens	9	11	35	37	1	2	6	7
Sefton	13	12	39	37	1	1	10	8
Wirral	11	11	41	42	2	2	14	13
Bolton	15	15	33	33	*	2	6	6
Bury	17	16	35	34	1	2	6	6
Manchester	15	14	26	28	2	2	7	7
Oldham	16	13	32	31	2	3	6	5
Rochdale	15	14	27	28	2	1	4	4
Salford	7	6	22	24	*	*	3	3
Stockport	11	11	35	36	1	1	8	9
Tameside	10	9	25	25	2	1	6	5
Trafford	14	17	42	44	3	4	13	15

Estimates of the proportion of pupils aged 15 in 2001/02 and 2002/03 academic years, in English maintained schools, who progressed to HE[1] by the age of 19 in 2005/06 and 2006/07 respectively, by local authority

Percentage

Local authority	*Young persons in UK HE*				*Of which: Russell Group HEIs*			
	FSM[2]		*Non-FSM[2]*		*FSM[2]*		*Non-FSM[2]*	
	2005/06	*2006/07*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Wigan	10	10	30	31	*	1	6	6
Barnsley	4	5	23	22	1	1	5	3
Doncaster	7	8	26	26	1	*	5	5
Rotherham	7	7	28	30	1	1	6	5
Sheffield	9	12	31	30	1	1	9	9
Bradford	16	17	28	30	1	1	5	5
Calderdale	16	13	33	36	2	1	6	7
Kirklees	17	14	33	34	2	2	7	7
Leeds	9	10	32	30	1	2	8	7
Wakefield	8	6	28	28	1	1	6	5
Gateshead	11	14	34	34	*	1	7	6
Newcastle upon Tyne	8	9	27	30	1	1	7	6
North Tyneside	8	7	32	31	0	*	7	7
South Tyneside	9	7	28	28	*	0	5	4
Sunderland	7	6	27	28	1	*	3	3
Isles of Scilly	n/a.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bath and North East Somerset	10	11	34	33	1	1	8	8
Bristol, City of	5	8	18	21	*	0	4	4
North Somerset	14	8	36	34	2	0	9	8
South Gloucestershire	8	8	28	29	2	0	5	5
Hartlepool	10	12	28	31	1	1	4	4
Middlesbrough	9	12	30	30	1	1	4	2
Redcar and Cleveland	11	8	36	35	1	0	5	4
Stockton-on-Tees	10	11	37	35	*	1	6	6
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	5	6	18	18	0	*	2	2
East Riding of Yorkshire	9	12	34	35	0	2	6	6
North East Lincolnshire	8	12	23	22	1	1	4	3
North Lincolnshire	6	6	27	27	2	2	6	5
North Yorkshire	11	11	38	38	1	0	10	9
York	9	8	35	35	0	1	8	8
Bedfordshire	10	10	33	33	1	*	6	5
Luton	23	21	32	31	1	1	4	4
Buckinghamshire	16	20	49	48	2	2	17	16
Milton Keynes	6	9	27	30	*	1	4	3
Derbyshire	8	10	33	32	1	1	8	8
Derby	12	14	32	34	2	1	6	5
Dorset	7	13	31	30	1	1	5	5
Poole	14	10	36	35	1	3	8	8
Bournemouth	12	12	34	30	0	1	7	6
Durham	6	7	28	30	*	1	5	6
Darlington	12	8	33	32	0	2	7	6
East Sussex	9	8	28	29	*	*	4	5
Brighton and Hove	10	12	26	27	2	2	4	4
Hampshire	8	8	32	33	1	1	7	6
Portsmouth	10	10	21	22	1	1	3	3
Southampton	9	9	26	26	1	2	6	6
Leicestershire	13	12	35	35	1	1	6	6
Leicester	19	17	39	39	*	2	5	4
Rutland	5	9	31	32	0	0	6	5
Staffordshire	10	10	32	32	1	1	5	5
Stoke-on-Trent	8	8	22	24	*	*	3	2
Wiltshire	5	9	34	33	1	1	8	7
Swindon	7	4	27	24	1	1	6	5
Bracknell Forest	5	4	30	30	0	0	5	6
Windsor and Maidenhead	18	18	39	42	0	0	6	7
West Berkshire	7	14	34	36	0	3	7	7
Reading	7	5	36	34	0	0	14	14
Slough	15	23	46	44	0	1	10	10

Estimates of the proportion of pupils aged 15 in 2001/02 and 2002/03 academic years, in English maintained schools, who progressed to HE[1] by the age of 19 in 2005/06 and 2006/07 respectively, by local authority

Percentage

Local authority	*Young persons in UK HE*				*Of which: Russell Group HEIs*			
	FSM[2]		*Non-FSM[2]*		*FSM[2]*		*Non-FSM[2]*	
	2005/06	*2006/07*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Wokingham	5	14	43	41	1	1	9	8
Cambridgeshire	8	6	31	33	1	1	7	7
Peterborough	13	11	25	30	1	2	5	5
Cheshire	9	9	39	39	1	1	10	9
Halton	7	8	27	28	1	1	5	4
Warrington	8	9	34	33	2	0	8	7
Devon	11	10	28	28	1	1	5	5
Plymouth	8	7	30	30	1	1	5	4
Torbay	10	11	37	35	1	1	10	9
Essex	9	9	30	29	1	1	4	4
Southend-on-Sea	9	11	37	38	0	1	8	9
Thurrock	5	8	20	20	0	0	2	1
Herefordshire	8	10	32	33	1	1	7	8
Worcestershire	8	7	33	34	1	1	8	7
Kent	8	9	34	35	1	1	7	7
Medway	11	11	29	31	0	1	4	4
Lancashire	15	14	34	35	2	1	7	7
Blackburn with Darwen	21	14	34	33	1	2	4	5
Blackpool	5	12	24	21	1	1	3	3
Nottinghamshire	9	8	29	30	1	1	8	6
Nottingham	8	6	21	23	1	1	5	5
Shropshire	9	8	33	33	1	0	7	7
Telford and Wrekin	7	10	30	32	*	1	7	7
Cornwall	12	10	28	29	1	1	4	3
Cumbria	8	10	34	35	1	1	8	8
Gloucestershire	9	10	36	37	1	1	9	9
Hertfordshire	13	13	40	40	1	1	9	9
Isle of Wight	9	9	26	29	0	1	3	4
Lincolnshire	8	5	33	34	1	1	9	8
Norfolk	8	6	26	27	*	*	4	4
Northamptonshire	10	10	31	32	*	1	5	5
Northumberland	7	14	35	35	*	1	9	8
Oxfordshire	10	8	33	34	*	1	8	7
Somerset	9	7	31	29	1	1	6	5
Suffolk	10	10	30	31	1	1	5	5
Surrey	12	15	38	38	1	1	7	7
Warwickshire	9	9	35	35	1	X	8	7
West Sussex	11	10	32	32	2	X	6	6

n/a = not applicable—figures for Isles of Scilly have been excluded due to small numbers. * = where percentages are less than 0.5 per cent. 0% = no pupils identified.

[1] Includes HE level courses at English further education colleges.

[2] FSM and non-FSM indicate receipt and non-receipt of free school meals respectively.

Note:

In 2002/03 there were 81,100 maintained school pupils aged 15 claiming free school meals. This represents around 14 per cent. of all pupils in English maintained schools. The number of pupils claiming free school meals will vary between local authorities.

Source:

Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record.

Higher Education: Sheffield

Mr. Betts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of young people in *(a)* each Sheffield constituency and *(b)* the City of Sheffield have entered higher education in each year since 1998. [323761]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* The numbers of young (under 21) undergraduate entrants, from the Sheffield constituencies of Attercliffe, Brightside, Central, Hallam, Heeley and Hillsborough and Sheffield local authority, are provided in the following table. Figures are provided for the academic years 1998/99 to 2008/09.

Percentage change in young undergraduate entrants: 1998/99 to 2008/09

	Change (percentage)
Sheffield Attercliffe	+74
Sheffield Brightside	+91
Sheffield Central	+78
Sheffield Hallam	+12
Sheffield Heeley	+44
Sheffield Hillsborough	+53
Sheffield local authority	+46

The Department does not collect data on the number of residents in a particular area who are not in higher education, which would be necessary to calculate a

proportion. It is, therefore, not possible to calculate the proportion of young people in each Sheffield constituency and Sheffield local authority who have entered higher education in each year since 1998.

Industrial Development Associations

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the timetable is for regional advisory investment panels to replace regional industrial development boards. [323200]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As stated in the annual report to Parliament under the Industrial Development Act 1982 for year ending 31 March 2009 (HC 668), it is expected that the regional development agencies will appoint new advisory panels to replace the regional industrial development boards by the end of the current financial year.

Loans

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals *(a)* to introduce more stringent regulation of the activities of companies offering payday loans and *(b)* to require companies offering payday loans to charge a rate of interest broadly in line with that levied by the larger banks; and if he will make a statement. [324950]

Kevin Brennan: Government are concerned at the impact of high cost credit products on the most vulnerable people in society. A diverse and innovative credit market benefits consumers, but there is a fine line between promoting choice and some of the recent innovations in the payday loan market, such as loans offered via the internet or mobile phone, that appear to make it too easy to access credit anywhere and at any time without thinking through the implications.

We will shortly be implementing the new Consumer Credit Directive into UK law. The directive will give consumers new protections such as a 14-day right to cancel any credit agreement without penalty and require lenders, including payday lenders, to provide clear information to consumers on new loans, and check borrowers' creditworthiness before lending.

The Office of Fair Trading will soon be publishing its new Irresponsible Lending Guidance covering the marketing and selling of credit products. The guidance will ensure that that lenders do not irresponsibly promote credit and will make clear the standards expected of them at all stages of the lending process. Government are determined to tackle irresponsible lenders, and those who are unable or unwilling to follow the guidance face being stripped of their credit licences.

The Office of Fair Trading is also reviewing the high cost credit area, including analysis on the impact of interest rate caps, and they are due to publish their findings and recommendations shortly. We will not hesitate to act if the review finds that further action is necessary to protect consumers.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Secretary of State plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 1 February 2010 on Joshua Carroll, transferred from the Department for International Development. [325128]

Kevin Brennan: My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State responded to my right hon. Friend on 24 March 2010.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many loans have been provided under his Department's Automotive Assistance Programme in each constituency; and how much has been loaned in total under the scheme in each constituency. [324491]

Ian Lucas: The Automotive Assistance programme (AAP) was set up to provide loan guarantees, and in exceptional cases, loans. On 18 September 2009, the Department announced the offer of a £10 million loan to Tata Motors European Technical Centre to support £25 million of investment in the Coventry area. However, the company was subsequently successful in accessing financial support elsewhere.

On 12 March 2010, we announced a conditional offer of €300 million (£270 million) loan guarantee to GM Europe which will help secure the company's operations in Britain and the rest of Europe.

On 18 March 2010, we announced the Government's willingness to provide £360 million in loan guarantees under the AAP towards six projects at Ford's research and development centre at Dunton in Essex and its manufacturing plants in Dagenham, Southampton and Bridgend in South Wales, supporting a proposed loan from the European Investment Bank.

National Investment Corporation

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2010, *Official Report,* column 396W, on National Investment Corporation, which external advisers have been used; and how much has been paid to each such adviser. [322451]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The Department has engaged KPMG and Addleshaw Goddard.

To date, the Department has paid Addleshaw Goddard £13,888.96 for legal advice on the Growth Capital Fund and no payments have yet been made to KPMG.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each regional development agency is providing to support Regional European Networks in 2009-10. [319607]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not identified any payments made to the Regional European Networks.

All the English Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) have some form of regional representation in Brussels and the RDAs contribute to and participate in this to varying degrees. This representation has supported each region in securing significant investment from a range of European funding streams; influencing legislation in order to ensure a competitive business environment; identifying economic opportunities for the region; and building key relationships to support these actions. The RDAs believe that it is important to continue to build on these activities in order to support the delivery of regional strategies, aid economic recovery and ensure the future growth of the English regions.

Figures exclude VAT unless otherwise stated.

Title	*Cost £000 (RDA financial contribution only 2008-09)*
East of England Brussels Office	64
England's East Midlands European Office	312
London's European Office	50
North East England in Europe	[1]67
North West Brussels Office	82
South East England Brussels Office	136
South West UK in Europe Brussels Office	241
West Midlands in Europe Office	455
Yorkshireurope	165

[1] Inclusive of VAT.

Science: Finance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Government plans to increase expenditure in the public science base at least in line with the trend growth rate of the economy through the period to 2014 referred to in the Ten-Year Science and Innovation Investment Framework. [325038]

Mr. Lammy: This Government remain committed to sustained investment in science and research, as set out in the 10-Year Science and Innovation Investment Framework and to the ring fence around the Science and Research Budget.

Total investment in science and research has doubled since 1997 and will increase to a record level of £6 billion in 2010-11.

Small Businesses: Borrowing

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of high street banks on the cost of borrowing for small businesses. [322808]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department continues to collect SME lending data from the four main banking groups (Lloyds, Barclays, HSBC, RBS) on a monthly basis. The headline messages from the bank data returns—including cost of finance—are discussed at the Small Business Finance Forum, which meets quarterly, is chaired by my noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Small Business and attended by representatives from the high street banks as well as key small business representative bodies.

The Department's data show that generally, the cost of finance remains lower than in 2007 due to falls in the base rate, despite increases in bank margins. Fixed rate finance remains lower than in 2007 and 2008, and margins on variable rate finance in October 2009 remain at comparable levels to previous months.

Social Enterprises

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the banking industry to promote awareness of and lending to community interest companies; and if he will make a statement. [324312]

Ian Lucas: I have had no such discussions. I have however met recently with the Regulator of Community Interest Companies who talks to banks and other finance providers to raise awareness of community interest companies. She also provides guidance on her website for potential funders of community interest companies.

Student Loans Company

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the total cost has been of the independent reviews of the Student Loans Company conducted by *(a)* Professor Sir Deian Hopkin and *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers. [324308]

Mr. Lammy: The total cost of the independent review of the Student Loans Company conducted by Professor Sir Deian Hopkin was £25,613.

The total cost of the independent review of the Student Loans Company being conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers is not yet known as the review has not been completed.

Student Loans Company: Telephone Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* average time taken to answer a call, *(b)* average waiting time for a member of the public during a call, *(c)* percentage of calls dropped or not answered and *(d)* average length of a call was in call centres run by the Student Loans Company in the latest period for which figures are available. [323953]

Mr. Lammy: The following information has been provided by the Student Loans Company (SLC) and relates to all inbound traffic to SLC's centres in Darlington, Glasgow and Wales, relating to calls from all customers about applications for loans, grants and other products administered on behalf of England, Wales and Northern Ireland and about repayment of loans by customers from all domiciles.

(a) The average time taken to answer a call (including interactive voice responses) and *(b)* the average waiting time for a member of the public during a call to the Student Loans Company in the latest period for which figures are available is set out in table 1.

Table 1

	Average time
2009	
April	03:01
May	02:40
June	01:57
July	02:38
August	03:07
September	05:13
October	02:15
November	01:59
December	02:21
2010	
January	02:04
February	00:44
March	01:00

(c) The percentage of calls abandoned or not answered is set out in table 2.

Table 2

	Percentage
2009	
April	23.2
May	23.4
June	24.5
July	28.3
August	71.1
September	85.4
October	33.0
November	15.4
December 2009	15.0
2010	
January	19.1
February	4.8
March	5.1

(d) The average length of a call in call centres run by the Student Loans Company in the latest period is set out in table 3.

Table 3

	Average length of call
2009	
April	07:03
May	06:51
June	06:08
July	06:02
August	06:26
September	07:10
October	06:49
November	06:51
December	06:29
2010	
January	06:09
February	05:40
March	05:37

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many graduates have had their student loan debt recovered by the Student Loans Company through EU Regulation 14/2001 since 2006. [324309]

Mr. Lammy: EC Regulation 44/2001 enables the Student Loans Company (SLC) to obtain judgments in UK courts, which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries. EC Regulation 44/2001 is not required where court action is raised in the country of domicile.

In early 2009, the SLC contacted 54 EU borrowers in order to start the legal process. Experience suggests that the majority of cases are resolved satisfactorily when the SLC advise borrowers that legal action will be taken, and where appropriate student debt has been recovered before court action has been raised. However, there remain a small number of cases which may be subject to court action under Regulation EU 44/2001 where action is ongoing. Student loan debt has so far been recovered from two students where court action was raised in their country of domicile, where the relevant local law is applicable.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in what circumstances the Student Loans Company would expect to enforce the provisions of EU Regulation 14/2001. [324310]

Mr. Lammy: Effective collection across the EU is underpinned by EC Regulation 44/2001 which allows the Student Loans Company (SLC) to obtain judgments in UK courts, which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries. SLC will use this whenever necessary.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cash cost of *(a)* fee loans and *(b)* maintenance loans in higher education in England is in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [324991]

Mr. Lammy: The current estimated cash provision for fee loans and maintenance loans given to students domiciled in England is £5.2 billion in 2009-10 and £5.7 billion in 2010-11.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the figures as fee loans and maintenance loans are a combined budget.

Students: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students *(a)* currently resident in City of York constituency, *(b)* studying at the university of York and *(c)* studying at the university of York St. John receive (i) grants towards their university fees and (ii) non-repayable bursaries towards their maintenance costs. [324218]

Mr. Lammy: Since academic year 2006/07 students have been able to defer payment of tuition fees by taking out a Tuition Fee Loan. Tuition fee grants have

not been available to new students since then and are only available to those who began their study before 2006/07.

In academic year 2008/09 100 students with home addresses in the York local authority area were awarded tuition fee grants. Reliable information is not available at constituency or university level.

The information requested on bursaries is not available centrally as they are the responsibility of higher education institutions.

Supermarkets: Alcoholic Drinks

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to prevent sales promotions by supermarkets selling alcohol at below cost price. [324784]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The Government consulted last year on banning the sale of alcohol below duty plus VAT, a form of loss-leader.

We continue to look at how we can tackle the problems caused by cheap alcohol, while respecting the rights of responsible consumers and the Government have commissioned further research in this area.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Construction

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* homes and *(b)* affordable homes have been built in each London borough in each year since 1997; [323593]

(2) how many *(a)* homes and *(b)* affordable homes were built in each London borough in each year since 1997. [324028]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have today placed tables in the Library of the House showing for each London borough since 1997-98 the number of new house building completions and also the number of additional new build affordable dwellings.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new build completions, supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2008-09, for example, a total of 12,890 additional affordable homes were provided in London.

Audit Commission

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 February 2010, *Official Report,* columns 867-8W, on Audit Commission, what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose was of each meeting of the Audit Commission for which external meeting venues were booked in the last 24 months. [324513]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred:

There have been four occasions in the last 24 months when external meeting venues have been booked for Audit Commission meetings. These are listed as follows:

23-24 April 2008: Strategic Board Meeting

11 December 2008: Board Meeting (external venue was used during downsizing work to Millbank offices)

22-23 April 2009: Strategic Board Meeting

17 December 2009: Board Meeting (external venue was used due to lack of heating at Millbank offices)

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 February 2010, *Official Report,* column 868W, on Audit Commission, for what purposes *(a)* Lexington Communications and *(b)* Consolidated Communications were hired by the Audit Commission; what public affairs and lobbying activity each undertook; and what documents and other briefing materials each produced for the Commission. [324514]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 29 March 2010:

Parliamentary Question: pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for on Audit Commission, for what purposes (a) Lexington Communications and (b) Consolidated Communications were hired by the Audit Commission; what public affairs and lobbying activity each undertook; and what the documents and other briefing materials each produced for the Commission

Your Parliamentary Question was passed to the Chief Executive who has asked me to reply in his absence.

Lexington Communications and Consolidated Communications were contracted to provide parliamentary and political monitoring research support.

The Audit Commission ceased its contract with Lexington Communications in 2005. There are no retained briefing notes produced for the Audit Commission by Lexington Communications.

In response to a recent Parliamentary Question by Bob Neill MP (PQ02427), we advised that the contract with Consolidated Communications had ceased in October 2008 and copies of all retained briefing notes were placed in the House of Commons Library.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 February 2010, *Official Report,* columns 870-1W, on Audit Commission, for what reason only 68 per cent. of hotel bookings were made through the Expotel facility; and what proportion of such bookings made through the Expotel facility were for hotels at five stars or above in 2008-09. [324608]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 29 March 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question was passed to the Chief Executive who has asked me to reply in his absence.

The Expotel contract is predominately used to book overnight hotel accommodation. There is the facility to use the Expotel service for external meetings but there is flexibility to negotiate directly with venues to secure better rates. The remaining 32% of spend identified as not going through Expotel relates to external meeting bookings and a small proportion of those are for hotels that do not accept bookings through Expotel.

Ten five star hotels were booked in 2008/09, which equates to 0.6% of total spend.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 870W, on Audit Commission, which senior Audit Commission officials had use of a Government driver in the last 12 months; and on how many occasions in each such case. [324609]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 29 March 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question was passed to the Chief Executive who has asked me to reply in his absence.

Government chauffeurs are not used by the Audit Commission. The Government Car and Despatch Agency is used as it is a greener and more cost effective alternative to black cabs.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 872W, on the Audit Commission, what the purpose was of each of the meetings at Shepherd's of Marsham Street, London; and who attended each. [324611]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 29 March 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question was passed to the chief executive who has asked me to reply in his absence.

On 18 July 2007 the purpose of the dinner was to discuss issues that would be relevant to the work undertaken by the Commission in the coming six months. The attendees were the Audit Commission Management Team (Chief Executive, MD Audit, MD Communications & Public Reporting, MD Corporate Services, MD Health, MD Human Resources, MD Local Government, MD Policy, Research & Studies), the Head of the Chief Executive's Office and an external speaker. The external speaker on this occasion was the Chief Executive of the National Consumer Council.

On 30 January 2008 the purpose of the dinner was to discuss issues that would be relevant to the work undertaken by the Commission in the coming six months. The attendees were the Audit Commission Management Team, the Head of the Chief Executive's Office and an external speaker. The external speaker on this occasion was the Director of Policy Exchange.

On 27 February 2008 the event was a lunchtime seminar to discuss issues on Devolution vs Centralisation since 1983 to aid the production of a paper on the subject. From the Audit Commission the attendees were the Chief Executive and the MD Policy, Research & Studies. The attendees were David Curry MP, David Heath MP, Sir Peter Soulsby MP, Peter Brokenshire, Jake Arnold-Forster and Sir Brian Briscoe & Paul Rigg, Local Government Association.

The purpose of the dinner on 9 July 2008 was to discuss issues that would be relevant to the work undertaken by the Commission in the coming six months. The attendees were the Audit Commission Management Team, the Head of the Chief Executive's Office and an external speaker. The external speaker on this occasion was the Senior Policy Adviser in the Prime Minister's Office.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 870-71W, on the Audit Commission, which bookings for hotels were not made through the Expotel hotel reservations facility in 2008-09; and for what reasons they were not made through the facility. [324612]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 29 March 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

In 2008/09, we made bookings with 34 hotels outside of the Expotel hotel reservations facility. The Expotel contract is predominately used to book overnight hotel accommodation, but we also use Expotel for events, some of which may include overnight accommodation. The bookings with the other hotels were made, in some cases, after direct negotiation to secure better rates and in others because of attendance at events at specific non Expotel hotels.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1023W, on the Audit Commission, for what occasion Roleplay UK was engaged by his Department on each date in 2008 and 2009 given in the answer; and for what reason in each case. [324818]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 29 March 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question was passed to the Chief Executive who has asked me to reply in his absence.

The attached schedule details the individual engagements of Roleplay UK in 2008 and 2009.

The majority of assignments related to recruitment assessment centres. Roleplayers were used to assist with the selection of new staff (graduate trainees and managers) and acted the parts of clients or employees in work sample roleplays.

There were nine development centres in 2008 where roleplayers played the part of a Chief Executive in order to assess staff skills in dealing with difficult client scenarios.

There was one training event in 2009 which involved roleplayers.

A copy of this letter will be placed in *Hansard*.

2010

Date	
Recruitment assessment centres	
2 January	District Auditor Assessment Centre
2 January	Graduate Trainee Auditor Assessment Centre
4 February	Senior Audit Manager Assessment Centre
25 February	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
25 February	CAAL Assessment Centre
25 February	CAAL Assessment Centre
28 February	CAAL Assessment Centre
3 March	Graduate Trainee Auditor Assessment Centre
5 March	Senior Audit Manager Assessment Centre
13 March	Graduate Trainee Auditor Assessment Centre
13 March	Senior Audit Manager Assessment Centre
14 March	Senior Audit Manager Assessment Centre
17 March	Principal Auditor Assessment Centre
25 March	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
27 March	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
14 April	District Auditor Assessment Centre
24 April	CAAL Assessment Centre
24 April	CAAL Assessment Centre
24 April	Principal Auditor Assessment
29 April	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
1 May	CAAL Assessment Centre
8 May	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
16 May	CAAL Assessment Centre
21 May	Graduate Trainee Auditor Assessment Centre
28 May	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
8 July	Assessment Centre
23 July	Principal Auditor Assessment Centre
31 July	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
31 July	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
12 August	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
12 August	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
26 August	Graduate Trainee Auditor Assessment Centre
2 September	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
7 October	Performance Specialists—Benefits Assessment Centre
14 October	Principal Auditor Assessment Centre
17 October	Principal Auditor Assessment Centre
21 October	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
21 October	Performance Specialists—Benefits Assessment Centre
20 November	Performance Specialists—Benefits Assessment Centre
25 November	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
25 November	Graduate Assessment Centre
11 December	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
23 December	Graduate Assessment Centre
Development centres	
2 January	Corporate Assessment Accreditation Centre
10 January	Corporate Assessment Accreditation Centre
14 January	Corporate Assessment Accreditation Centre
6 February	Corporate Assessment Accreditation Centre
25 February	Corporate Assessment Accreditation Centre
30 March	Corporate Assessment Accreditation Centre
16 April	Corporate Assessment Accreditation Centre
6 June	Corporate Assessment Accreditation Centre
19 September	Corporate Assessment Accreditation Centre

2009

Date	
Recruitment Assessment Centres	
11 February	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
6 May	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
4 June	Audit Manager Assessment Centre
11 May	District Auditor Assessment Centre

	2009
Date	
28 September	District Auditor Assessment Centre
9 July	Finance Manager Assessment Centre
10 July	Finance Manager Assessment Centre
20 November	Finance Manager Assessment Centre
13 January	Graduate Assessment Centre
26 January	Graduate Assessment Centre
26 January	Graduate Assessment Centre
11 February	Graduate Assessment Centre
13 February	Graduate Assessment Centre
27 March	Graduate Assessment Centre
30 July	Graduate Assessment Centre
30 July	Graduate Assessment Centre
27 August	Graduate Assessment Centre
8 June	Performance Specialists—Benefits Assessment Centre
29 June	Performance Specialists—Benefits Assessment Centre
17 July	Performance Specialists—Benefits Assessment Centre
28 August	Performance Specialists—Benefits Assessment Centre
14 May	Senior Audit Manager Assessment Centre
Training event	
23 February	Knowledge Sharing Session

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 624W, on the Audit Commission, what the cost to the public purse was of each of the employment tribunal cases, including any settlement payments. [324823]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred dated 29 March 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

Seven employment tribunal claims have been brought against the Commission by members of staff or former staff in the last four years. The grounds of dispute, outcome and settlement payments in each case are outlined below.

1. A former employee argued that dismissal on grounds of redundancy was unfair. The matter was settled on cost efficiency grounds in the sum of £5000.

2. A former employee disputed the amount of holiday pay owed by the Commission on termination of employment. The Tribunal dismissed the claim. Counsel's fees were £778.

3. A former employee alleged breach of contract relating to an agreement to make payment in lieu of notice (PILON). The claim was settled for a nominal amount. Settlement and Counsel's costs were £1250.

4. A former employee brought a claim against the Commission for failure to make an ill-health retirement recommendation to the Commission's Pension Scheme Trustees. The claim was withdrawn with no Counsel or settlement costs.

5. A former employee argued that dismissal on grounds of redundancy was unfair. The claim was withdrawn with no Counsel or settlement costs.

6. Nine members of staff brought a claim against the Commission for equal pay. The claim was upheld by the Employment Tribunal and is the subject to an appeal to the Employment Appeal Tribunal. Counsel's costs to date for hearing and appeal are £29,200. This case is ongoing.

7. A former employee has brought claims against the Commission for unfair dismissal, race discrimination, disability discrimination and other related claims. The claims are yet to be heard and are fully contested by the Commission. Counsel's costs to date are £850. This claim is ongoing.

These figures do not include costs associated with managing claims by Commission officers as this information is not collected.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 624-28W, on the Audit Commission, whether the Audit Commission has made payments to City Inn Westminster in the last five years. [324832]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 29 March 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question was passed to the Chief Executive who has asked me to reply in his absence.

The Audit Commission has made the following payments to the City Inn Westminster in the last five years:

	£
2005-06	45,955.29
2006-07	40,318.46
2007-08	45,237.07
2008-09	157,402.42
2009-10	117,715.52

Note:

Expotel data before April 2006 has been excluded from the 2005-06 total as this information has been archived and was not accessible in time for the response.

Payments increased in 2008/09 as the City Inn Westminster rates decreased in comparison to alternative hotels, making the City Inn a more cost effective option. The City Inn was then added to Expotel.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Bullying: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1129W, on bullying: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, what posts were held by those against whom the complaints were made. [324038]

Barbara Follett: It is not the policy of this Department to publish details relating to complaints which could lead to the identification of the individuals concerned.

Coastal Erosion: Southend on Sea

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he *(a)* has had in the last 12 months and *(b)* plans to have in the next 12 months with other Departments to discuss cliff slippage in Southend; and if he will make a statement. [R] [324395]

Mr. Khan: I have been asked to reply.

No discussions have been held and none are planned.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether the community infrastructure levy will apply to developments with permitted development rights; [323305]

(2) whether the community infrastructure levy will apply to agricultural building and developments which do not have permitted development rights. [323307]

Mr. Ian Austin: The August 2009 CIL consultation document described the definition of buildings which will be liable to pay CIL, and what exemptions the Government were minded to grant.

The Government listened to the concerns of the agricultural industry during the consultation period. As a result, the draft regulations published earlier include a transitional exemption from CIL for new buildings that rely on the General Permitted Development Order. The charge cannot apply to new permitted development until 6 April 2013.

Council Housing: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many families were on housing waiting lists in each London borough in each of the last five years. [319057]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information specifically about the number of families registered on the social housing waiting list is not available. Social housing waiting list information is collected by household.

Council Tax

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the gross value was of council tax receipts in *(a)* England, *(b)* each local authority and *(c)* each Government office region expressed in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in each year since 1997-98. [324505]

Barbara Follett: For information in respect of England as a whole I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 281-82W.

For information in respect of the individual billing authorities in England I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1389W and on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 214W.

Information on council tax collected in each Government office region in England from 1997-98 to 2008-09 in both cash and real terms is given in the following tables.

Cash

£ million

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
North East	449	488	529	558	593	648	709	755	793	828	872	902
North West[1]	1,310	1,434	1,519	1,623	1,733	1,860	2,034	2,063	2,235	2,349	2,475	2,570
Yorkshire and the Humber	866	949	1,014	1,087	1,171	1,277	1,415	1,512	1,593	1,668	1,795	1,835
East Midlands	773	860	935	1,013	1,087	1,213	1,334	1,433	1,592	1,575	1,653	1,730
West Midlands	940	1,027	1,113	1,198	1,298	1,421	1,573	1,662	1,743	1,813	1,909	1,996
East of England	1,031	1,190	1,306	1,427	1,542	1,722	1,977	2,132	2,229	2,343	2,484	2,613
London	1,386	1,486	1,616	1,767	1,944	2,090	2,448	2,617	2,771	2,888	3,051	3,171
South East[1]	1,716	1,926	2,092	2,260	2,435	2,696	3,102	3,267	3,506	3,691	3,892	4,098
South West	995	1,109	1,203	1,312	1,406	1,576	1,801	1,942	2,048	2,158	2,274	2,395
England	9,488	10,459	11,318	12,242	13,208	14,511	16,392	17,372	18,419	19,315	20374	21,319

Real terms at 2008-09 prices calculated using the retail prices index as at April 2008

£ million

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
North East	634	642	674	699	733	789	837	870	885	902	909	902
North West[1]	1,784	1,875	1,968	2,042	2,142	2,266	2,400	2,377	2,497	2,559	2,578	2,570
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,186	1,249	1,313	1,368	1,448	1,555	1,671	1,742	1,781	1,817	1,829	1,835
East Midlands	1,050	1,132	1,211	1,274	1,343	1,477	1,575	1,651	1,678	1,715	1,722	1,738
West Midlands	1,268	1,352	1,441	1,507	1,605	1,731	1,858	1,916	1,947	1,975	1,998	1,996
East of England	1,439	1,566	1,692	1,793	1,906	2,097	2,334	2,445	2,485	2,553	2,588	2,613
London	1,898	1,956	2,093	2,225	2,403	2,536	2,891	3,016	3,095	3,145	3,178	3,171
South East[1]	2,350	2,535	2,710	2,843	3,019	3,284	3,664	3,764	3,916	4,020	4,055	4,098
South West	1,363	1,439	1,508	1,651	1,758	1,919	2,127	2,238	2,288	2,350	2,370	2,395
England	12,990	13,706	14,661	15,401	16,329	17,674	19,360	20,019	20,572	21,036	21,227	21,319

[1] Data for two authorities not received in 2004-05.

The data are taken from the Quarterly Return of Council Tax and Non-domestic rates returns completed annually by all billing authorities in England and the real terms data are given at 2008-09 prices.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's pre-release announcement on council tax of 10 March 2010, if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent list of dwelling house and value significant codes used by each local authority. [323542]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the Valuation Office Agency's Property Details Guide, which is available in the Library and the most up-to-date version is available on its website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its agencies spent on advertising via Google Adwords in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and for what keywords. [324609]

Barbara Follett: The Department purchases its digital marketing through the COI framework appointed agency i-Level.

i-Level have confirmed that from 1 April 2009 to 24 March 2010, the Department spent a total of £212,825.94 advertising via Google Adwords.

In this period the Department bought against 868 different keywords.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its agencies have spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324434]

Barbara Follett: This information is not centrally available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324566]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not provide subsidised gym facilities for staff.

Departmental Computers

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 479W, on departmental computers, what software is included in the average price for a *(a)* desktop and *(b)* laptop computer; and what the typical make, model and specification is for (i) desktop and (ii) laptop computers purchased for such prices. [323106]

Barbara Follett: Included within the average price, which was given in the answer I provided on February 23rd 2010, both desktops and laptops are loaded with Microsoft Window XP operating system as well as a suite of security software. We are unable to provide details on the suite of security software loaded due to security reasons.

Typical make, model and specifications within the estate are as follows:

(a) Desktop

DELL Optiplex 745 SF

Intel Core 2 Duo E6300 (667 MHZ DDR2 DU)

19 inch LCD Monitor, 2 x 512 MB memory, 80GB hard drive (72000 RPM), Floppy Disk Drive : 3.5" 1.44MB INTERNAL, 24 x DVD-ROM and CD/RW, Keyboard.

(b) Laptop

DELL Latitude E6400

Intel Core 2 Duo P8400 (2.26GHz, 10066MHz, 3MB)

14.1 inch screen, 2 x 1 GB memory, 80 GB hard drive, 8X DVD-ROM and 24X CD+/-RW, Modem: UK Internal 56.6K.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 479W, on departmental computers, whether the average price for *(a)* desktop and *(b)* laptop computers includes (i) catalogue management, (ii) new order authorisation, (iii) disc imaging and software installation, (iv) delivery and removal of old kit, (v) installation, (vi) field engineering support and (vii) removal and disposal. [323107]

Barbara Follett: Yes, the average price—provided under our answer of 23 February 2010—for desktop and laptops does include these costs.

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department and its non-departmental bodies are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323044]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and its non-departmental public bodies encourage its catering contractors to follow the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (DEFRA) guidance for Public Sector Food Procurement Initiatives.

The initiative aims to deliver a world class sustainable farming and food sector. It also provides data on the domestically produced food used by, and supplied to, Government Departments. CLG reports to DEFRA on the procurement of food, catering services and catering equipment, indicating the proportion of United Kingdom produce supplied from farm assured, organic, fair trade tea and coffee and seasonal produce. The reports are published on the "Raising Awareness" page of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiatives website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/policy/publicsectorfood/awareness.htm

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department, its predecessor and its agencies spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what those items were. [324720]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not retain information on spending on promotional items in a fashion which distinguishes between those carrying the Department's branding and logo and those which do not.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose of each such event was. [324666]

Barbara Follett: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 956W, on departmental pay, what the average annual salary is of special advisers in his Department. [323990]

Barbara Follett: The average annual salary is of special advisers in this Department is £72,000.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average pay and pension cost, including employer national insurance contributions, is for a press officer in his Department. [324037]

Barbara Follett: The average pay and pension cost for a press officer (including salary, employer's national insurance contributions and pension costs) in this Department is £48,214.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding under each programme to improve *(a)* levels of employment, *(b)* levels of income, *(c)* health levels, *(d)* educational achievement, *(d)* the living environment, *(e)* crime levels and *(f)* access to housing and services his Department allocated to each London borough in each year since 2000; and what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of that funding in each case. [323773]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Improvements to the outcomes listed in parts *(a)* to *(e)* are encompassed within the aims of the Department's area-based programmes. In line with devolutionary principles, many of the funding arrangements allow for local flexibility in identifying priorities within the local authority area.

The main area-based programmes which have allocated funding to London boroughs since 2000 are:

Safer and Stronger Communities Fund, comprising: Neighbourhood Element and Cleaner, Safer, Greener Element

Liveability Fund

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

New Deal for Communities

Local Enterprise Growth Initiative

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Thames Gateway Programme

Inspiring Communities Grant.

Funding allocated from these programmes to London authorities is included in tables 1 to 6 which have been laid in the Library of the House.

(f) The main programmes which seek to improve access to housing in London boroughs include:

Choice Based Letting

The Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme

The Supporting People programme.

Funding information for these programmes is included in tables 7 to 10 which have been laid in the Library of the House.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of funding for programmes under *(a)* to *(f)* have not been conducted at the local authority level. Completed national level evaluations are available from the Department's website.

Departmental Records

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's guidance to staff on records management and filing for private offices [324017]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government follows the guidance issued by the Cabinet Office and the National Archives in June 2009 for the management of private office records. I have arranged for a copy of this to be placed in the Library.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which of its *(a)* best value inspection reports, *(b)* audit letters, *(c)* comprehensive performance assessment reports and *(d)* comprehensive area assessment reports the Audit Commission has recommended a local authority to consider introducing alternate weekly collections of household rubbish. [324498]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 29 March 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

Without reviewing over 2,000 documents, which would only be possible at disproportionate cost, the Audit Commission is aware of only two audit, inspection or assessment reports since 2004 which recommend that a local authority considers alternate weekly collections of household rubbish.

These are:

Waste Management inspection report for West Devon District Council (January 2005)

Waste Management inspection report for Cannock Chase District Council (September 2005)

Both reports are available on the Commission's website

www.audit-commission.gov.uk

The Commission's approach to this issue is the same as for other questions of public service delivery. It is for local authorities to decide how best to deliver their services. We expect them to consider all relevant options, to make their decision on the basis of accurate information and to be accountable for the cost and service outcomes achieved.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the email from the Audit Commission to Southampton City Council of 26 August 2004 on fortnightly rubbish collections and *(b)* the associated best value inspection report. [324499]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Gareth Davies, dated 29 March 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question was passed to the Chief Executive who has asked me to reply in his absence.

A copy of the Audit Commission's best value inspection report on Southampton City Council's waste management service (published 2004) has been placed in the House of Commons Library. The email from the Audit Commission to Southampton City Council of 26 August 2004 has also been placed in the Library.

The inspection report can also be found on the Audit Commission's website at:

http://www.audit-commission.Gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/InspectionOutput/InspectionReports/2004/SouthamptonWasteMgt29Oct04REP.pdf

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 873-4W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Audit Commission's *(a)* waste management quick guide and *(b)* draft letter to local authorities on controlled waste regulations guidance. [324825]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Gareth Davies, dated 29 March 2010:

Parliamentary Question: pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 February 2010, Official Report, columns 873-4W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Audit Commission's (a) waste management quick guide and (b) draft letter to local authorities on controlled waste regulations guidance.

Your Parliamentary Question was passed to the Chief Executive who has asked me to reply in his absence.

A copy of the Audit Commission's waste management quick guide has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Our response to PQ 1532 09/10, from the Honorary Member for Brentwood and Ongar on 9 February 2010, incorrectly stated that the draft letter to local authorities on controlled waste regulations guidance was an Audit Commission letter. This draft letter was a DEFRA document and should not have been included in our response to PQ 1532 09/10.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Empty Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many public requests to order disposal have been submitted in the last 24 months; for which properties in each case; and what decision he took in each case. [324497]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local authorities are required to seek the consent of the Secretary of State before they can dispose of certain properties held for housing purposes. Over the last two years specific consent has been granted to the disposal of approximately 100,000 council houses

and flats: the vast majority as part of large scale voluntary transfers to housing associations. No applications made to the Secretary of State to dispose of property have been refused over this period.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether public requests to order disposal apply to *(a)* Transport for London, *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency and *(c)* regional development agencies. [324613]

Barbara Follett: Public requests to order disposal (PROD) are not provided for, or referred to directly, in legislation. PRODs are a tool which allow the public to request that underused land be bought back into use. The Secretary of State has the power to direct disposals of unused or underused land held by public bodies under the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980. This power only applies to those public bodies listed in Schedule 16 to that Act.

In response to your specific queries:

(a) Transport for London is considered to be a statutory undertaker under paragraph 18 of schedule 16 and is therefore covered by the Act.

(b) The Homes and Communities Agency is not listed in schedule 16.

(c) Regional development agencies are not listed in schedule 16.

English Regions Network: Manpower

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff work for the Civil Service in the English Regions programme. [324550]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are 46.8 full time equivalent staff working for the Civil Service in the English Regions programme.

Fire Services: Industrial Disputes

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions his Department has held with Group 4 Securicor (G4S) on their proposal that G4S Fire Service provide a contingency force to cover the fire service in event of industrial action and pandemics; and if he will make a statement. [324855]

Mr. Malik: This Department has had no discussions with Group 4 Securicor (GS4) on their proposal that they provide contingency cover in the fire service in the event of industrial action and pandemics.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what basis Group 4 Securicor have been identified as the preferred bidder to provide a national fire service reserve; when this decision was taken, and by whom; what consultations there have been with the Fire Brigades Union on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [324857]

Mr. Malik: Firebuy, the national procurement body for the fire and rescue service in England, undertook the procurement process for the Fireguard Project at the request of 33 fire and rescue authorities, led by the Chief Fire Officers' Association. An evaluation of the bids was made on the basis of technical, financial, and legal and contractual criteria set out in advance of the invitation to tender process. The final decision to identify Group 4 Securicor as the preferred bidder for the Fireguard Project was taken by the Firebuy Board on 24 June 2008.

The participating fire and rescue authorities however decided that they did not wish to enter into a contract, and the project was closed in May 2009. It would have been for the project sponsors to undertake any consultation they considered necessary.

Homelessness: Sefton

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps have been taken to provide housing advice to homeless people in Sefton; [325002]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on homelessness: Sefton, what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of youth homelessness in Sefton. [325007]

Mr. Ian Austin: The homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) places a general duty on housing authorities to have a strategy for preventing and tackling homelessness in their area and to ensure that advice and assistance about preventing homelessness is available free of charge to everyone in their area.

We have allocated a total of £186,000 to Sefton over the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 to support their homelessness strategy. In addition, we have allocated £85,500 to Sefton over the year 2009-10 to help families at risk of homelessness through repossession or eviction.

This grant helps assist people of all ages and a proportion of this money will be spent on young people based on a local authority's need. We cannot disaggregate actual spend on young people but in England in the last quarter 39 per cent. of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty were aged 16-24 years.

The Supporting People programme provides revenue funds for local authorities to commission housing related support services for vulnerable people in their area, to enable them to achieve and maintain independence. In 2008-09 Sefton spent £7,466,593 of their funding allocated through the Supporting People programme on housing related support services.

Supporting People is a locally managed and delivered programme. Local authorities are responsible for making the strategic decisions regarding the programme including deciding what services to commission to meet local needs and priorities.

Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on average what weekly rent was paid by a *(a)* private tenant, *(b)* local authority tenant and *(c)* registered social landlord tenant (i) before and (ii) after the deduction of housing benefit in each region in each of the last five years. [306633]

Mr. Ian Austin: This information is not available in the form requested.

Housing: Conferences

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department and its agencies sent representatives to each of the last three MIPIM international property conferences. [324032]

Barbara Follett: In 2007, 2008 and 2009, the MIPIM conference was attended by the following officials from Communities and Local Government:

2007

Director general, Policy Programmes and Innovation.

2008

Director general, Housing and Planning

Director general, Tackling Disadvantage

Director general, Finance and Corporate Services.

2009

Director general, Housing and Planning

Director general, Regions and Communities.

No departmental Ministers or officials have attended the MIPIM conference in 2010.

The Department's agencies are The Fire Service College, Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and the QEII Conference Centre. None of these agencies attended MIPIM in 2007, 2008 or 2009.

Housing: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 6 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 371W, on housing: databases, how many *(a)* dwellings, *(b)* composite hereditaments and *(c)* hereditaments in England have been allocated a unique address reference number by the Valuation Office Agency. [323314]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

All entries in rating lists and council tax valuation lists have unique address reference numbers. Dwellings are shown in the valuation lists; non-domestic properties in the rating lists and mixed properties (known as composites) usually have an entry in both.

The latest figures released show there are, in England, approximately 22.8 million entries in council tax valuation lists, of which, some 280,000 are composite dwellings. There are approximately 1.7 million entries in rating lists in England.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps he has taken to encourage sustainable housing development in the West Midlands. [324279]

John Healey: Budget 2009 and our £1.5 billion Housing Pledge in June 2009, has to date meant I have been able to release to the west midlands £80 million for the Kickstart Housing Delivery programme targeted at currently stalled house building sites, to support construction of high quality housing; and £21 million for new energy efficient local authority house building. Also, from June 2009 to January 2010 west midlands has been allocated £170 million of grant from the National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP). Homes supported under NAHP are expected to be Code level 3 or above.

More generally, this Department has worked with a wide range of stakeholders in developing the Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) policy to help improve the sustainability of homes both during construction as well as occupation. The Code is the national voluntary standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes. The Code aims to reduce carbon emissions and encourage homes that are more sustainable.

Under the Planning Policy Statement on climate change PPS 1 Local Authorities can specify levels of the Code as a planning condition as long as they have specified local circumstances that warrant and allow any local requirement.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what mechanisms he plans to make efficiency savings in local government in the next three years; what targets he has set local authorities on efficiency savings; and whether he plans to change the level of funding provided by his Department to local authorities. [324003]

Barbara Follett: Local Government have to try to achieve at least 3 per cent. efficiency savings in each of the first two years of the 2007 comprehensive spending review period (2008-09 and 2009-10) and 4 per cent. in 2010-11. Overall, we expect local authorities to achieve £5.5 billion in cumulative savings by the end of 2010-11.

No overall target has been set for efficiency savings in 2011-12 and 2012-13. However, the 2009 pre-Budget report set out the potential for local government to make £800 million savings by 2012-13, of which £550 million could come from more efficient waste collection and disposal; reducing the burden of inspection, assessment and reporting requirements across Government measures to reduce duplication and inefficiency between the different tiers of local government and a further £250 million could come from reducing variations in spend on residential care.

In the 2010 Budget, we confirmed £11 billion of savings across the public sector through the Operational Efficiency Programme and 'Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government'. Local government is expected to contribute savings of £2.1 billion towards this total.

Decisions about public spending overall from 2011-12 will be taken in the spending review.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the monetary value was *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita of the provisional local authority formula grant for (i) England, (ii) the South West and (iii) each local authority in the South West in each year from 1979 to 1997; [325016]

(2) what the monetary value was *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita of the local authority formula grant for (i) England, (ii) the South West and (iii) each local authority in the South West in each year from 1979 to 1997. [325017]

Barbara Follett: Formula grant comprises revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula police grant, where appropriate.

CLG does not keep records of the provisional allocations of formula grant.

CLG only hold records of the amount of revenue support grant and redistributed business rates allocated to local authorities from 1990-91, the start of the SSA system. We do not hold records of the Home Office police grant over this period.

Prior to 1993-94 formula grant was provided only to billing authorities.

A table has been laid in the Library of the House providing CLG formula grant (which comprises revenue support grant plus redistributed business rates), the population data used in the calculation of that year's formula grant, and the CLG formula grant per head for all authorities, together with the totals.

Local government reorganisation occurred during this period. We have provided the data for all authorities that existed during this period. Where authorities did not exist for a particular year the area has been greyed out.

Local Government: Carbon Emissions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on the *(a)* council tax rates and *(b)* finances of local authorities if they do not reduce carbon dioxide levels significantly below their baseline of the Carbon Reduction Commitment. [323087]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Government have assessed the potential burden of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme on local authorities, and has determined that it will not constitute a new burden for the sector. Its overall impact is not therefore expected to increase council tax, but will result in net savings for local authorities.

Analysis indicates that the potential savings from reduced energy bills are far higher than the costs incurred. The financial impact of the CRC will be determined by the organisation's relative performance as compared to other participants. The maximum penalty will be an extremely small fraction of local authorities operating costs, and this would be offset by even very modest improvements in energy efficiency.

Local Government: Fees and Charges

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Audit Commission has provided guidance to local authorities on charging for municipal leisure services. [324508]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Gareth Davies, dated 29 March 2010:

The Audit Commission's national report Positively Charged, published in January 2008, makes recommendations designed to help councils make better use of their charging powers and discusses how councils can improve their approach, and communicate better with councillors and the general public about the purposes of charging. This report provides general guidance on how to go about making charging decisions rather than any specific advice, though the examples used in the report include some from leisure services.

The Commission has also published "Better Information, Better Decisions, Better Services" - a series of guides to the information required for specific decisions. One of the guides covers the information councils need to make decisions on charging for sports services. Both the report and the decision guide are available on the Commission's website and the links are below.

Positively Charged national studies report:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nationalstudies/localgov/Pages/positivelycharged.aspx

Better information, Better decisions, Better services guide:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/AuditCommissionReports/Nationalstudies/DecisionGuideSports.pdf

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Local Government: Inspections

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an assessment of the effects of Comprehensive Area Assessment regime on the level of inspection and assessment of local authorities; and what estimate was made of the *(a)* cost of and *(b)* savings likely to be generated by that regime prior to its introduction. [324504]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Audit Commission, on behalf of the joint inspectorates responsible for the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), commissioned two independent evaluation reports of the implementation and costs of the first year of the CAA. The reports were published on 17 March 2010 by Shared Intelligence and the Office for Public Management (OPM) respectively. The Shared Intelligence report demonstrates widespread support for the CAA and the move to a more risk-based approach to assessment and inspection. The OPM report indicates that the costs to councils of CAA are lower than they were for CPA by at least 15 per cent.—approximately £4 million. However, the report explains that this is a conservative estimate and the actual reduction is likely to be greater, up to £19 million. There is great variation in the costs which reflect the choices councils make about how much to spend preparing for and responding to inspection. A further 10 per cent. savings reduction is expected from one-off costs of preparation by councils in the first year of the CAA.

As part of this Department's regulatory impact assessment (RIA) of the Local Government White Paper published in 2006, we estimated costs and savings to be made from the introduction of the new CAA regime of approximately £7 million and £23 million respectively, a net reduction of £16 million.

As announced in the Smarter Government Budget progress update, Government are committed to a measurable reduction in the costs of compliance with assessment and inspection for public services. We will also continue to look at how to make assessment and inspection more effective and streamlined.

Local Government: Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to require local authorities to publish the name, title and full remuneration package of each local authority employee earning over £60,000. [324507]

Barbara Follett: New regulations, which come into force on 31 March 2010, amending the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003 No. 533), will improve the transparency of reporting the remuneration of senior officers in public bodies, including local authorities.

Local authorities will be required to disclose, within their Statement of Annual Accounts, details of the number of staff in receipt of salaries over £50,000, in bandings of £5,000. In addition, these regulations will also require local authority employers to disclose detailed remuneration information, by title, for those officers holding senior positions equivalent to board level, and to name all employees in receipt of salaries over £150,000.

Local Government: Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1291-2W, on local government: pensions, what the cash value was of the payment made to local authorities to compensate for the effects of the abolition of advanced corporation tax relief on the Local Government Pension Scheme in each year since 1998; and what measure of inflation has been used to index such funding. [324008]

Barbara Follett: The financial impact of the abolition of advanced corporation tax relief on local authority pension schemes was fully assessed by all the relevant parties, including the Local Government Association and each pension fund authority at the time of abolition and it was found to be £130 million. The spending plans for local government provided in each successive spending review have taken into account factors like the pressures authorities face, along with the scope for efficiency savings.

The Government have provided significant investment in local government with a 45 per cent. real terms increase in funding between 1997 and 2010-11.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the March 2010 revaluation on the level of employer contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme from March 2011. [324013]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Local Government Pension Scheme is kept under review to ensure its ongoing affordability and fairness to taxpayers.

The level of employers' contributions to apply from March 2011 will be set later this year by each of the 89 individual pension fund authorities in England and Wales in conjunction with their fund actuaries following the Scheme actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2010. Contribution rates for participating employers will be set at a level to achieve affordability and satisfy the Scheme's regulatory requirement for solvency.

The Scheme's regulatory provision also require employers' rates to be set at as constant a rate as possible to help participating employers plan and implement their budgets.

Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* children were living in income-deprived households in each (i) local authority and (ii) constituency according to the most recent indices of multiple deprivation data. [324615]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The English indices of deprivation have, since 2004, been produced at lower level super output area (LSOA) level. LSOAs are smaller than constituencies and are designed to remain consistent in size, and over time, to allow more detailed identification of pockets of deprivation. This also overcomes difficulties in producing statistics for electoral wards and parliamentary constituencies which are associated with frequent boundary changes. There are 32,482 LSOAs in England with an average population of 1,500 people.

The income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) and the income deprivation affecting older people index (IDAOPI) were also produced for each LSOA in England. These can be downloaded from the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/xls/576508.xls

Summary measures for larger areas, such as local authority districts or parliamentary constituencies, are not produced for the IDACI and IDAOPI.

Non-domestic Rates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of eligible firms claimed small business rate relief in each local authority billing area in the latest period for which figures are available. [324506]

Barbara Follett: The Department's report 'Small Business Rate Relief—improving evidence on eligibility and take-up' was published on December 9 2009. It estimates that, of the approximately 1.2 million non-domestic properties in England which fall below the current rateable value (RV) thresholds for SBRR, around 575,000 are occupied by eligible small businesses. This report has been validated by an independent peer review and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/

The methodology used in the report only applies to England as a whole. Therefore, it is not possible to estimate the proportion of eligible firms claiming SBRR in each local authority.

However, new experimental statistics on the number of hereditaments in England claiming SBRR published on the Communities and Local Government website on 252 February 2010, show that 462,000 of them were benefiting from SBRR on 31 December 2008.

By applying that figure to the eligibility estimates made for the 2005 rating list it is estimated that around 80 per cent. of eligible hereditaments in England were claiming SBRR in 2008-09—see table 1.

Relief granted to small businesses has been increasing since SBRR was introduced—from £202 million in 2005-06 to £298 million in 2008-09. This represents a

real terms increase of 34 per cent. Furthermore in 2008-09, 92 per cent. of the total relief that would be paid if all those estimated to be eligible were to claim, was actually being paid—see table 2.

This statistical release is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/sbrrfeb2010

Table 1: Take-up of SBRR—numbers claiming

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Number of hereditaments actually claiming SBRR (thousand)	396	433	462
Number of hereditaments estimated to be occupied by eligible small businesses (thousand)	575	575	575
Percentage of estimated eligible actually claiming	69	75	80

Table 2: Take-up of SBRR 2005-06 to 2008-09—relief

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total relief that would be paid out if all properties estimated to be occupied by eligible small businesses were to claim[1] (£ million)				
Relief actually claimed (£ million)	202	237	259	298
Percentage take-up[2]	69	78	83	92

[1] For details of how this estimate was derived please see the report 'Small business rate relief—improving evidence on eligibility and take-up: Methodology'.
[2] Percentage of total relief, which would be paid if all eligible small businesses claimed it, that was actually paid.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether business rate bills for 2005-10 will be subject to transitional relief. [324510]

Barbara Follett: In 2005 the Government implemented a transitional relief scheme to protect ratepayers from large increases in business rates due to the 2005 revaluation. The 2005 transitional relief scheme ran until 31 March 2009.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that fast track and other rating reassessments on port companies which are not completed until after the start of financial year 2010-11 do not include liability for retrospective charges to 2005. [324134]

Barbara Follett: The effective date of alterations to the Rating List is governed by the Non-Domestic Rating (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) (England) Regulations 2009. Where there is a difference between the day a Rating List is altered and the effective date of the alteration, a backdated liability will accrue. The Government do not currently have any plans to amend these regulations.

The review of ports by the Valuation Office Agency was carried out to ensure that all individual business properties within and outside ports were rated fairly to ensure that the burden of contributions to funding local government is shared equitably between businesses around the country.

The Government has listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some within the ports. It has legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in a single instalment, helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flow during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87.5 per cent.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Valuation Office Agency *(a)* received an application for and *(b)* made a decision on the fast-track reassessment of Scotline. [324512]

Barbara Follett: We are unable to comment on individual cases but the Valuation Office Agency is working with ratepayers, or their representatives, to resolve appeals relating to ports under the fast-track arrangements.

Parish Councils: Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average level of parish council precepts on council tax was in 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of that level in 2010-11. [324020]

Barbara Follett: The average level of parish council precepts on council tax in England in 2008-09, the latest date for which an estimate has been made, is £45. This figure is published in Table A3b of 'Local Government Financial Statistics No. 19 2009', a copy of which is available in the Library of the House or on the Communities and Local Government website.

The estimate for 2009-10 will be published in 'Local Government Financial Statistics No. 20 2010' in June 2010. No date has been set for the publishing of the estimate for 2010-11.

Social Rented Housing: Construction

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were *(a)* built and *(b)* purchased by landlords for social rent in each year since 1997. [323185]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information showing additional new build and acquired affordable homes, including homes for social rent, can be found in Live Table 1009 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1406088.xls

Wolverhampton City Council

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the Audit Commission's best value inspection report of March 2005 on Wolverhampton City Council. [324500]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Gareth Davies, dated 29 March 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question was passed to the Chief Executive who has asked me to reply in his absence.

The Audit Commission's best value inspection report on Wolverhampton City Council's waste management service was published in May 2005. The fieldwork for the inspection was carried out in March 2005.

A copy of the report has been placed in the House of Commons Library and can also be found on the Audit Commission's website at:

www.audit-commission.gov.uk/localgov/audit/inspection/reports/Pages/wastemanagement_17.aspx?AIBID=127

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer question 306633, on weekly rent, tabled on 8 December 2009. [319593]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have now replied to the hon. Member's question.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 30 March 2010

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by the Government Equalities Office are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323077]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office does not procure any meat or dairy products.

Equality Bill

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Henley of 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 298W, on the Equality Bill, if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's correspondence with the fire and rescue service and other appropriate stakeholders. [323625]

Michael Jabez Foster: Further to my answer of 9 March 2010, there is no formal correspondence on this issue involving my Department to place in the Library.

My officials have discussed extending the socio-economic duty to all fire and rescue authorities with representatives of the Chief Fire Officers Association, Local Government Association, Fire Brigades Union, UNISON, and other interested parties.

Officials from the Department for Communities and Local Government will be inviting chief fire officers and the chairs of fire and rescue authorities to comment more formally on the proposal in due course.

Hotels

Anne Main: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305651]

Michael Jabez Foster: Since it's creation on 12 October 2007 the following amounts have been spent on hotel accommodation.

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
Ministers and special advisers[2]	900	910	1370
Civil servants	4817	7334	5474

[1] Figures current to 31 January 2010.
[2] Figures cannot be broken down between the two groups.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324681]

Paul Goggins: The amount spent by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) on interior design in relation to office refurbishments is not separately costed or invoiced so the NIO (including its arm's length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs) could answer this question only at disproportionate cost.

PRIME MINISTER

Lord Chancellor: Pensions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Prime Minister what pension former Lord Chancellors receive *(a)* under the Lord Chancellor's Pension Act 1832, *(b)* the Ministerial and Other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991 and *(c)* other legislation as a consequence of holding the office of Lord Chancellor; and if he will make a statement. [323696]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1070W, and to the answer given by my predecessor (right hon. Tony Blair) to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 19 November 2002, *Official Report*, column 93W.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Prime Minister if he will take steps to repeal the Lord Chancellor's Pension Act 1832. [323697]

The Prime Minister: The Government remain committed to legislating in this area. The current Lord Chancellor has made arrangements to ensure that his pension is no greater than the pension provision for a Secretary of State.

Unite

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister how many meetings he has had with representatives of Unite in the last 12 months. [324543]

The Prime Minister: I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what files his Department holds on *(a)* the BBC and *(b)* the BBC Trust; and if he will make a statement. [325171]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department holds a large number of files relating to its responsibilities in respect of the BBC. To specify them individually would incur disproportionate cost.

Cricket: Broadcasting

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what discussions he had with county cricket clubs and their boards on the proposals in the David Davies Review of free-to-air listed events; and if he will make a statement; [325074]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on the playing of cricket at grass roots level of implementation of the proposal to list home Ashes Test matches; and if he will make a statement; [325075]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect on the finances of cricket of implementation of the proposal to list home Ashes Test matches; and if he will make a statement. [325076]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government's statutory consultation on free-to-air listed events closed on 19 March.

The evidence received in response to the consultation will form the basis of an economic impact assessment.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in current prices. [324811]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The cost of employing press officers in 2008-09 was £706,643. This includes press officers working on the Olympics.

Information for 1996-97 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose of each such event was. [324667]

Mr. Bradshaw: The relevant five events were the Secretary of State's Christmas reception, December 2007 (£11,366); The Royal Parks' annual stakeholder event, January 2008 (£3,617.05); The Royal Parks' annual stakeholder event, December 2008 (£3,045.98); the Secretary of State's Christmas reception, December 2008 (£4,477); and the Secretary of State's new year reception, January 2010 (£2,997).

All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance, based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

Hotels

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many transactions his Department has made through the Expotel facility to date. [324341]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of transactions made by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport during the calendar years 2007 to 2009 through Expotel is shown in the table:

Transactions by DCMS

Calendar year	*Number*
2009	104
2008	167
2007	148

Newspaper Licensing Agency

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency has paid to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each of the last 10 years. [323965]

Mr. Bradshaw: The amount paid by the Department and its agency, The Royal Parks, directly to the Newspaper Licensing Agency over the past 10 years is shown in the table:

Cost excluding VAT

£

	Department for Culture, Media and Sport	*The Royal Parks*
2009-10	7,338.52	2,014.02
2008-09	39,727.43	1,429.68
2007-08	42,152.86	367.94
2006-07	49,765.18	462.40
2005-06	24,330.18	401.93
2004-05	17,634.89	372.80
2003-04	18,401.94	361.15
2002-03	6,734.40	350.83
2001-02	7,661.60	605.92
2000-01	5,125.30	529.10

Royal Parks Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to Baroness Warsi of 17 March 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 188WA, on Government departments: consultancy services, if he will place in the Library a copy of the stakeholder audit and perception research produced for the Royal Parks Agency. [324622]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I am arranging for copies of the stakeholder audit and perception research to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Sports: Training

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations Sportscoach UK has received from independent sports teachers and coaches in its review of the UK coaching certificate. [324963]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sportscoach UK has received a number of inquiries following the announcement of the UK Coaching Certificate Review.

The large majority of inquiries have come directly from the governing bodies of sport, with one direct inquiry from an athletics coach.

Swimming: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has provided to Birmingham to meet the costs of free swimming for *(a)* senior citizens and *(b)* young people since the inception of its free swimming programmes. [325238]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Free Swimming Programme (FSP) is a £140 million package comprising contributions from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department of Health, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Birmingham is one of 261 local councils offering free swimming and has received £248,027 for the over 60s and £574,019 for the under 16s.

All authorities participating in the FSP for both the over 60s and the under 16s also received an additional share of remaining FSP funds, of which Birmingham was allocated £57,338.

Swimming: Training

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has allocated to the Amateur Swimming Association for the provision of free swimming teacher training courses in each local authority in the last two years. [324944]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As part of the Free Swimming Programme (FSP) the Government have allocated £5.8m per annum to the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) for the provision of 100,000 free swimming lessons and for the recruitment of a national network of County Swimming Coordinators.

The ASA does not provide specific free swimming teacher training courses. However, the ASA has invested £100,840 across 93 local authorities participating in free swimming lessons, which has provided swimming teachers with the opportunity to upgrade to level 2 qualifications.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Catering: Subsidies

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was paid in subsidy towards *(a)* food and *(b)* alcoholic drink in outlets in the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate in the last year for which information is available. [324547]

Nick Harvey: In 2008-09 the overall net cost incurred by the Catering and Retail Service in the Department of Facilities was some £6.1 million, in accordance with the budget and pricing strategy approved by the Finance and Services Committee following advice from the Administration Committee. This represents the difference between income and the cost of the services provided. It is not possible to disaggregate the subsidy for *(a)* food and *(b)* alcohol.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used in the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate. [324984]

Nick Harvey: There are currently no voltage optimisers or equivalent technologies in use in the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate. However the feasibility of installing this equipment is currently being assessed.

Nurseries

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the proposed day nursery at 1 Parliament street will be open to children other than those of hon. Members, Peers and staff employed in Parliament. [324761]

Nick Harvey: The Commission decided that the nursery will be open to children aged 0 to five of Members, Members' staff and House of Commons staff. The possibility of opening the nursery to other groups will be considered after the general election when the level of initial interest is clearer.

WALES

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324685]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324967]

Mr. David: The Wales Office currently does not have voltage optimisers or equivalent technologies installed on its office premises. They will however be considered as part of my Department's sustainable development work in order to reduce electricity consumption.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325206]

Mr. Hain: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T. C. Davies) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 643W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325186]

Mr. Hain: None.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Petitions

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House (1) if she will bring forward proposals to require a Minister of the Crown to present to the House any bill supported in a petition signed by one million or more people eligible to vote; [324544]

(2) if she will bring forward proposals to require a debate to be held in the House on the subject matter of a petition signed by 100,000 or more people eligible to vote. [324545]

Ms Harman: On 22 February, the House approved recommendations from the Select Committee on Reform of the House of Commons (HC 1117, Session 2008-09) for greater public involvement in the legislative process (Recommendation 42) and for the establishment of a system of petitions requiring debate (Recommendation 43). Further work on the implementation of these recommendations will be required in the next Parliament.

I also refer the hon. Gentleman to the written answer given by the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), representing the House of Commons Commission, on 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 651-52W, which describes some of the work already being undertaken by the House authorities in these areas.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324682]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not separately identify the costs of interior design in relation to office refurbishments from the routine repair and replacement of existing facilities.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in real terms. [324800]

Ann McKechin: The cost of employing press and media officers in 2008-09 was £121,033. The Scotland Office was not established until 1 July 1999.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what such items were. [324709]

Ann McKechin: The only Scotland Office spend on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years was for two pull-up backdrops for public events with the Secretary of State's crest, at a total cost of £640.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Fraud: Prosecutions

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General on what date the Serious Fraud Office guidelines on corporate prosecutions *(a)* were published and *(b)* became effective. [324570]

The Solicitor-General: The document "Guidance on Corporate Prosecutions" was published on 6 January 2010 and came into effect on the same date.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding has been allocated to UK rehabilitation centres for wounded servicemen and women in each of the last five years; and how much such funding is planned for the next three years. [321092]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Defence Medical Services manage an extensive armed forces rehabilitation network which meets a wide range of requirements for rehabilitation treatment, including treatment for operational casualties. The network includes primary care rehabilitation facilities and 13 regional rehabilitation units (RRUs) in the UK, as well as the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court in Surrey, where seriously wounded servicemen and women are normally treated following the completion of their secondary care.

Funding for the treatment of wounded personnel has been, and will continue to be, made available to match clinical requirements, including surges in casualty numbers. Our future budgetary plans assume a continuing need for additional investment in facilities and staff at Headley Court. Comprehensive financial data for the past five years are not readily available.

Headley Court has received steadily increased investment in facilities and staff over recent years. The unit's operating costs, including estate management, are about £20.4 million in the current financial year, as compared with some £10.7 million (actual costs) in 2005-06. Significant new facilities brought into service over recent years, at an additional total cost of about £7.5 million, include a 30-bed ward annexe (May 2007), a 58-bed staff and patient accommodation block (January 2009) and the new Centre for Mental and Cognitive Health (opened last spring). For many years the Headley Court estate,

which is owned by a charitable trust, has also benefited from additional funding of projects by that trust and other charities.

In addition to funding the projects just listed, we announced in May 2008 an extra £24 million in capital funding over the next four years for a Headley Court development programme. Over the first two years (i.e. up to April 2010) this funding is being mainly applied to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) contribution to the Help for Heroes rehabilitation complex, which will come into service in a few weeks, and a utilities upgrade for the whole site. Assessment work has also started on a project to re-develop the clinical areas, which would replace and expand the unit's current ward bed capacity (66 beds) and deliver other benefits, with an expected completion date in late 2011. As a prudent contingency measure, we are also providing additional ward accommodation of up to 30 ward beds later this year.

On 11 February the MOD launched the new Army Recovery Capability in partnership with Help for Heroes and The Royal British Legion as well as other service charities. The ARC marks a further step forward in the support to our armed forces and will ensure the best possible care and management is provided to our wounded, sick and injured personnel. The MOD is investing around £30 million over the next four years to fund the Army Recovery Capability. This will include the provision of military and civil service personnel to co-ordinate, manage and deliver the Army Recovery Capability, including the personnel recovery centres.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 203W, on armed forces: housing, how many requests for repair call outs were made in respect of family housing. [314204]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Willie Rennie:

In my answer of 29 January 2010 (Official Report, column 1117W) I undertook to write to you with details of how many of the 42,645 repair calls-out received in 2009 by Turner Estates Solutions (TES)—the Regional Prime Contractor for Scotland—related to Service Family Accommodation (SFA).

As previously explained, TES is responsible for maintaining the majority of the defence estate in Scotland, including SFA, Single Living Accommodation, technical buildings and infrastructure. While the total number of calls received by the TES helpdesk is recorded, the subject of each call is not unless it results in a repair and maintenance work order being raised by the helpdesk. Most calls do result in a work order, as was the case in 42,474 of the 42,645 calls received in 2009.

The following work orders for SFA were raised by the TES helpdesk in 2009:

Month in 2009	Total Work Orders	Of which the following were Emergency	And the following were Urgent or Routine
January	1,708	230	1,478
February	1,388	200	1,188
March	1,446	187	1,259
April	1,261	137	1,124
May	1,283	123	1,160
June	1,271	98	1,173
July	1,319	103	1,216
August	1,285	97	1,188
September	1,426	108	1,318
October	1,453	153	1,300
November	1,584	182	1,402
December	Not yet available	Not yet available	Not yet available
Total	15,424	1,618	13,806

Emergency orders are raised when repairs are required immediately, such as when there is a heating failure, burst water pipe or a leaking roof. These are typically dealt with in a matter of hours. Typically, Urgent orders are raised when there is a partial loss of essential facilities, such as hot water, and Routine orders for such matters as replacing washers or fixing dripping taps. Urgent orders are normally dealt with in four days against a contractual target of seven. Routine orders are normally dealt with in 11 days, against the target of 20.

Armed Forces: Lost Property

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what armed forces' equipment was reported as *(a)* missing and *(b)* stolen from operational theatre in the last 12 months. [321730]

Bill Rammell: A comprehensive list of each item of armed forces' equipment reported as missing or stolen from operational theatres is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 9-10W, on armed forces: Merseyside, how many of the *(a)* 131,000 young people and *(b)* 25,000 adult volunteers are based in Merseyside. [325009]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table shows the number of cadets and adult volunteers that are members of the Ministry of Defence sponsored Cadet Forces in the boroughs of Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens and Wirral in March 2010.

	Adult volunteers	Cadets
Army Cadet Force	168	1,354
Sea Cadet Corps	268	808
Air Training Corps	270	1,049
Total	706	3,211

These figures include members of the Combined Cadet Forces.

Armed Forces: Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on *(a)* how many occasions and *(b)* for how long on each occasion search and rescue helicopters at RAF Lossiemouth have been unavailable in the last 12 months; and on what proportion of such occasions this was because of (i) aircrew shortages and (ii) technical problems. [321333]

Bill Rammell: Between 1 March 2009 and 28 February 2010 RAF Lossiemouth was unable to provide search and rescue (SAR) capability on 26 occasions due to crew shortages. All of these consisted of 12 hour night-time closures.

In the same period Lossiemouth SAR helicopters were unavailable on 147 occasions due to technical problems; these periods vary in length from a few minutes to several days. Details of each occasion and the length of time Lossiemouth was listed as being 'off-state' are shown in the following table.

The extended closure of Lossiemouth between 26 January and 1 February this year was because both helicopters required major repair work. If a helicopter becomes unavailable for any reason, then the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre at RAF Kinloss liaises with other SAR providers to reduce the impact on available cover. This is primarily achieved by ensuring that when one SAR station is expected to be 'off-state' a neighbouring site is fully operational.

Date	*Downtime (Hours and minutes)*
March 2009	
4-5	6.56
9	9
20	20
20	20
21	21
21-22	5.16
April 2009	
7	0.36
8-9	09.10
25-26	13.32
28	1.37
28	0.51
May 2009	
6	1.19
8-9	15.00
10	9.32
12-13	36.44
14	2.08
15	3.48
15	0.24
18	14.58
19	6.43
19	0.12
19	0.51
20	2.04
21	0.48
23-24	1.16
24	3.03
25	0.47
26-27	24.07
29-30	17.06
31	0.45
June 2009	
1	3.13
3-4	24.44
8	3.11
11	0.27
11	2.10
12-13	7.51
14-15	2.37
16	3.53
17	3.57
18-19	7.41
19	5.29
19-20	27.52
22	0.54
29	0.07
29	1.19
July 2009	
10	0.02
18-19	10.14
20	5.52
20-21	14.45
26	1.07
29	2.19
31	1.03
August 2009	
6	1.03
8	3.14
12	2.52
12	1.37
12	2.48
13	4.18
15-16	6.47
19	3.27
21	0.08
21	2.01
24	3.43
September 2009	
1	2.32
7	2.26
10-11	7.38
13	1.51
23-24	6.09
28	0.45
28	1.25
October 2009	
4	3.22
8	3.00
21	3.08
22-23	20.33
25	0.01
26	1.04
27-30	97.13
31	1.31
November 2009	
5	0.01
5	5.54
7-8	14.06
13	1.33
20	8.01
20-21	12.53
24-25	12.02

Date	Downtime (Hours and minutes)
26	0.20
30	0.01
30	0.01
December 2009	
1	3.32
2-3	14.04
3-5	47.18
5-6	10.08
6-7	14.32
7-8	28.49
10-11	25.18
14	5.12
14	6.42
14	0.29
19	1.59
29	6.08
29-30	2.34
30	3.42
January 2010	
7	6.00
12	4.43
14	8.13
14	6.10
14-15	10.39
15	0.49
15	6.48
16	1.04
19	12.04
21-22	19.21
23	1.01
24	2.44
25	2.49
25	1.17
25	0.03
26 January to 1 February	154.09
February 2010	
2	13.53
4	0.01
5	2.55
5-6	4.59
6-7	13.32
6-7	9.06
7	0.02
7	2.23
10-11	7.45
11-12	10.58
12-13	31.04
13	1.05
14	3.38
15	4.29
17-18	13.28
20	1.07
21	17.47
21-22	20.12
22	1.28
24-25	16.13
25	7.45
26	3.25
27	0.13
27	2.39
27	1.41
27	1.19
28	4.42
28	0.01
28	2.19

Armed Forces: Training

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the Defence Academy's budget for 2009-10 is allocated to *(a)* private finance initiative and *(b)* public private partnership contracts; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of each such contract against its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [321499]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 10 March 2010]:* The Defence Academy's budget for 2009-10 currently spends 28 per cent. on private finance initiatives (PFI) with the Joint Services Command and Staff college and Defence sixth form college and 8 per cent. on its public-private partnership contract (PPP) with Serco for the Shrivenham Campus Integrator Contract.

Defence Sixth Form College (DSFC)

The objectives of DSFC are to provide education services and support services in order to deliver an output of students each contract year qualified to study a technical subject at university, and subsequently to attend officer training or the Defence Engineering Science Group graduate scheme. The DSFC is currently achieving this with 98 per cent. of students who left the college in June 2009 securing entry onto an accredited technical course at a Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme Partner university; additionally the college achieved a 100 per cent. pass rate at 'A' level.

Joint Services Command and Staff College (JSCSC)

The objectives of the JSCSC PFI are to provide education services and support services in order to deliver command and staff training at junior, advanced and higher levels for all three services to a world class standard. An NAO report in 2002 stated that the JSCSC PFI was good value for money. The Customer Executive Board actively examines the rigorous course internal validation process and emerging customer requirements and directs specific changes to courses in order to improve the output in line with the defence mission. This robust evaluation process has confirmed that JSCSC continues to deliver command and staff training at junior, advanced and higher levels for all three services to a world class standard.

Shrivenham Campus Integrator Contract (CI)

The aim of the CI contract is to provide property and facilities management services to the Shrivenham site and assets. The MOD CI contract management team continually assesses, reviews and monitors contract performance against service delivery and contract objectives. The CI contract is monitored via a monthly review board where the MOD decides whether the contractor has met key performance indicators and via the MOD's Supplier and Customer Performance Assessment on a monthly and annual basis.

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which countries the armed forces undertake training. [324645]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* Overseas training is undertaken in a number of countries in order to better prepare our armed forces for the tasks they may face, not only in Afghanistan but in other operations where there may be a need in the future, for example humanitarian relief operations. To do so, there is a need to experience different weather conditions and terrain beyond that offered in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, our armed forces benefit from training with foreign forces and coalition partners in order to ensure that we can effectively operate together.

The Royal Navy have trained in the following countries during the financial year 2009-10:

Brunei
Cyprus
Denmark
Egypt
France
Indonesia
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Malaysia
Norway
Pakistan
Singapore
Sweden
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
USA
Yemen.

The Royal Marines have trained in the following countries during the financial year 2009-10:

Bangladesh
Brunei
France
Indonesia
Italy
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Nigeria
Norway
Singapore
United Arab Emirates
USA.

The Army have trained in the following countries during the financial year 2009-10:

Australia
Belize
Brunei
Canada
Cyprus
Falkland Islands
France
Georgia
Germany
Gibraltar
India
Jamaica
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Malaysia
Morocco
Nepal
New Zealand
Norway
Oman
Poland
Romania
Singapore
South Africa
Spain
Uganda
USA.

Finally, The Royal Air Force has undertaken training in the following countries during the financial year 2009-10:

Belgium
Belize
Canada
Chile
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Egypt
Falkland Islands
France
Germany
Gibraltar
Italy
Jordan
Kenya
Malaysia
Morocco
Norway
Oman
Portugal
Singapore
Spain
Sweden
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
USA.

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which national military forces receive training in the UK. [324646]

Bill Rammell: In the last full financial year 2008-09, for which data are available, representatives from 105 national military forces commenced training in the UK.

Countries commencing training at defence establishments in the UK 2008-09:

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Austria

Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Bermuda
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo Republic
Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of Congo
Denmark
Egypt
Estonia
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Republic of Korea
Kuwait
Latvia
Lebanon
Libya
Lithuania
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Malawi
Malaysia
Malta
Moldova
Mongolia
Morocco
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Occupied Palestinian Territories
Papua New Guinea
Peru
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Ireland
Romania
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syria
Tanzania
Thailand
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
USA
Uruguay
Yemen
Zambia

We also provided language training to the Kosovo Security Force in the UK during 2008-09. Given this is not a military organisation, it has not been included in the above list.

Cluster Munitions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will ensure that US cluster bombs held in the UK are removed forthwith; [325173]

(2) by what mechanism his Department will ensure enforcement of the agreement that US cluster bombs should be removed from the UK. [325174]

Bill Rammell: The United States inventory of weapons is declared annually to the Ministry of Defence who ensure that all weapons are appropriately licensed and stored.

The US has identified the cluster munitions on UK territory as exceeding their worldwide operational planning requirements. These cluster munitions will be removed

from sites in the UK in 2010 and from all UK territories by 2013, as declared by Baroness Kinnock during the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill Second Reading on 8 December 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 1020.

Defence Academy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proposals he has for the recruitment and training of linguists following the closure of the research and assessment facility at the Defence Academy. [321483]

Bill Rammell: The research and assessment facility in the Defence Academy was not involved in the recruitment or training of linguists for the MOD. No change in procedures will therefore be required.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer from the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Banbury of 17 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 869, on what date he was briefed that defence spending had not risen in real terms in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [325077]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The briefings that I have received on this issue as Secretary of State have stated that there has been a sustained increase in the Defence budget since 1997, and that every spending review since that date has provided for a real terms rise in core defence spending over the period it covered.

Defence: Finance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the real term change was in the defence budget for *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2006-07 compared with the previous year. [324627]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In 2004-05 there was a real term increase on the previous year of 0.72 per cent. (2003-04 £29.08 billion up to £29.29 billion).

In 2006-07 there was a real term increase on the previous year of 0.87 per cent. (2005-06 £29.97 billion up to £30.23 billion).

These figures were calculated using the 'near cash' element of the Defence budget as laid out in the spending review settlements, and converted to 2008-09 prices using the HM Treasury GDP deflator.

These figures do not include the net additional cost of military operations, which are not met from the Defence core budget, but funded from the Reserve.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of each. [324703]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* Information on official entertainment by event is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We use official entertainment to pursue British security policy interests, facilitate a wider public understanding of the armed forces, and enhance professional contacts within the UK and with other nations.

Expenditure on official entertainment must be modest and is incurred according to business need. It is subject to prior approval and compliance with departmental rules and the principles of propriety set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury's handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has incurred expenditure on *(a)* foreign exchange derivatives and *(b)* consulting on currency hedging strategies in each of the last three years. [325120]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) incurred expenditure as a result of foreign exchange derivatives in 2007-08 but this has been more than offset by gains in both 2008-09 and 2009-10. In the same period the MOD did not incur any expenditure on consultancy support for its currency hedging strategy.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2010, how much of the £848 million for the A400M project has been spent under each cost category. [322035]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 12 March 2010]:* The expenditure on A400M to date is broken down as follows:

Resource departmental expenditure limit (RDel) (total £5 million)

	£ million
Assessment phase	2
Development/Production	3

Capital departmental expenditure limit (CDel) (total £843 million)

	£ million
Development phase	545
Production phase	298

HMS Vanguard: Accidents

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to Lord Dykes of 16 March 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 167WA, on nuclear-powered submarines, if he will publish a summary of the report on the collision between HMS Vanguard and FS Le Triomphant, redacting the elements relating to classified operational detail. [325261]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is the Government's policy not to disclose details of submarine operations. I am therefore withholding all particulars of the collision between HMS "Vanguard" and FS "Le Triomphant" on the grounds of national security.

Land Mines: Bomb Disposal

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with charities working to dispose of landmines. [322622]

Bill Rammell: Officials at the Department for International Development regularly meet with the HALO Trust and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) which are the two UK based charity organisations which are funded as part of DFID's global demining programme. These discussions focus on evaluation and monitoring of ongoing programmes in several countries.

The most recent ministerial contact was by my the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, South (Mr. Alexander). He met with MAG in September last year when he visited their new Manchester offices as part of a visit to the region.

Lionel Crabb

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for what reason the Prime Minister has retained portions of records ADM 1/29241 under section 3.4 of the Public Records Act 1958; if he will discuss with the Prime Minister a review of this decision with a view to releasing the records to the National Archives; and if he will make a statement; [325288]

(2) for what reason his Department has retained portions of records ADM 1/29241 under section 3.4 of the Public Records Act 1958; if he will review this decision with a view to releasing the records to the National Archives; and if he will make a statement. [325289]

Mr. Kevan Jones: These extracts were retained by the Ministry of Defence in 2006 on national security grounds. My officials have looked again at the information in question in recent days and have reaffirmed that earlier decision.

RAF Menwith Hill

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the single-storey extension to the bermed earth building at the base at Menwith Hill will be operational; and for what purposes it is to be used. [325175]

Bill Rammell: The estimated construction completion date for the single-storey extension is January 2011, with internal works to follow thereafter. This building will form part of the RAF Menwith Hill Operations Complex.

Territorial Army: Pay

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for what reasons payment of Territorial Army annual training bonuses has been deferred to May 2010; [325056]

(2) what estimate he has made of the savings which he made by deferring the payment of annual Territorial Army training bonuses to May 2010; [325057]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect on the *(a)* morale, *(b)* retention and *(c)* personal finances of members of the Territorial Army of deferral of payment of annual training bonuses to May 2010. [325058]

Bill Rammell: There has been no deferral of the Territorial Army (TA) annual bounty.

Bounties are paid annually to all those who have qualified for a Certificate of Efficiency. The certificate confirms that the appropriate levels of attendance, training and performance have been met.

The certificates are produced at the beginning of April and cover the previous 12-month period. In the majority of cases individuals receive payment by the end of the same month. This is the expectation for 2010. In a small amount of cases, where the certificate is delayed, payment may not be received until May.

United States Africa Command

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with the US administration on the basing of AFRICOM at the Joint Intelligence Operations Centre at Molesworth. [325176]

Bill Rammell: US personnel at RAF Molesworth currently provide intelligence analysis capabilities for a number of organisations, including US Africa Command. The US continue to examine the future basing options for the headquarters of Africa Command and no formal discussions have taken place regarding RAF Molesworth.

TRANSPORT

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1192W, on automatic number plate recognition, if he will place in the Library copies of the request and approval documents relating to each of the local authorities using automatic number plate recognition for civil parking and civil traffic enforcement. [324835]

Mr. Khan: Automatic number plate recognition is not a requirement for the certification of CCTV equipment used for civil traffic enforcement and any use of that technology is incidental to certifications granted.

Applications for the certification of equipment must demonstrate compliance with The Bus Lanes (Approved Devices) (England) Order 2005 or The Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (Approved Devices) (England) Order 2007. They are generally technically complex, voluminous and contain information on technology that is commercially sensitive. It is not appropriate, or always practicable, to publish them.

A list of all the certifications that have been granted is maintained on the Department's website. I have arranged for the current list to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Aviation: Security

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he discussed with the Secretary of State for Health the potential health implications of the use of body scanners at airports. [324697]

Paul Clark: No ministerial discussions have been held with the Department of Health. However, the Health Protection Agency has provided a risk assessment covering the use of those security scanners which use ionising radiation. This has been made publicly available on the Department for Transport's website and placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether any *(a)* individuals and *(b)* categories of British citizen will be exempt from undergoing full body scans when passing through airport security. [324961]

Paul Clark: All passengers departing from UK airports are subject to search, and airport authorities are entitled to refuse access to restricted (i.e. airside) areas to any persons not willing to be screened. If a passenger is selected for screening by a security screening device and refuses to go through, then they will not be able to travel.

A small number of individuals are exempt from certain screening procedures in line with international protocols.

Cycling: Accidents

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many cyclists have been *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed in road accidents in London in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) 2009 and (iv) 2010 to date; and if he will make a statement. [325154]

Paul Clark: The number of pedal cyclists injured and killed in reported road accidents in London in 2007 and 2008 are shown in the following table. Data is not available yet for 2009 and 2010. Data for 2009 will be published in June 2010. Similarly, data for 2010 will be published in 2011.

Injured and killed pedal cyclist casualties in reported road accidents in London: 2007-08

	Injured	*Killed*	*All casualties*
2007	2,955	15	2,970
2008	3,187	15	3,202

Although the overall number of reported pedal cycle casualties increased slightly in 2008, this is against a background of a general upward trend in cycling traffic.

Measures to make roads safer for cyclists include providing better infrastructure, funding cycle training, improved training and testing for motorists and encouraging cyclists to protect themselves, by making themselves conspicuous and by wearing a safety helmet.

Other initiatives such as anti drink/drug-drive and speeding campaigns, the provision of 20 mph zones and new measures on goods vehicles mirrors can also contribute to cyclist safety.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325190]

Chris Mole: The primary channel for receiving and addressing complaints and inquiries about all aspects of the Department's website is the:

webmasterdft@dft.gsi.gov.uk

email address.

Inquiries received through the webmasterdft@dft.gsi.gov.uk email account are not categorised—they typically include requests for help to locate particular content, to assist with the downloading and use of files, including binary files and broader policy enquiries which are sent on to the appropriate policy official for response.

Further sorting and classifying of enquiries to identify specific and direct complaints during the period 2008-10 cannot be done without incurring disproportionate costs. Data is not retained prior to 2008.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325208]

Chris Mole: Tables have been placed in the Libraries of the House showing websites operated over the last three years and how much has been spent on external website design consultants for website design work. Costs provided are total external costs and do not include internal staff costs.

Where costs are not available this is due to a number of reasons; either the site has not existed for the past three years; the costs are part of a much larger contract and cannot be itemised; or the costs cannot be calculated without incurring disproportionate costs.

The Department for Transport measures website costs in line with the guidance issued by the Central Office of Information, 'Measuring website costs (TG128)', starting in this financial year 2009-10, with collation of data at year end.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what *(a)* the cost and *(b)* purpose of each was. [324661]

Chris Mole: The information requested cannot be answered except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many grade 2 civil servants are employed in his Department. [325055]

Chris Mole: Grade 2 as a description of staff level is no longer in general use. Senior civil servants in similar sized roles are now referred to as being in pay band 3 and usually have the job title of director general. The Department for Transport has six full-time equivalents currently employed at this level.

East Coast Railway Line

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the Secretary of State decided not to impose penalties on National Express as a consequence of its defaulting upon the East Coast rail franchise. [325082]

Chris Mole: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 29 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 760W.

As a consequence of an event of default under its contract, the National Express East Coast rail franchise was terminated on 13 November 2009. In terminating the franchise, the Secretary of State exercised his contractual rights under the Franchise Agreement with National Express East Coast.

The termination of this franchise also created a default under the terms of National Express East Anglia franchise and the Secretary of State notified National Express East Anglia on 25 November 2009 that its franchise would terminate on 31 March 2011. Without this default, it could have been extended to 2014.

Network Rail: Industrial Disputes

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* departmental officials last held discussions with Network Rail on its trade dispute with the RMT union. [325257]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport receives regular progress updates from Network Rail on a range of issues including its trade dispute with the RMT union.

Network Rail: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had with Network Rail on the effects on *(a)* efficiency and *(b)* safety levels of its planned (i) staff reductions and (ii) new working practices. [325256]

Chris Mole: Staffing is an operational matter for Network Rail. Network Rail is required by the independent Office of Rail Regulation to deliver substantial efficiency savings and improvements for the operation, maintenance and renewal of the network over the next five years.

Ministers have been advised of Network Rail's proposed restructuring of its maintenance function in the course of routine meetings with the company. Network Rail will seek to minimise compulsory redundancies, and to achieve most job losses through targeted voluntary redundancies and redeployment of existing staff into other roles of the business—as part of revised working practices.

The Office of Rail Regulation is responsible for assessing that Network Rail's activities and change programmes do not put at risk the safety of passengers and the workforce. Ministers have regular discussions with the Office of Rail Regulation, which includes these subjects.

The Office of Rail Regulation is also responsible for monitoring Network Rail's delivery of its regulated requirement to improve the safety of the railway by 3 per cent. by 2014.

On 3 March the Office of Rail Regulation announced the outcome of its review of Network Rail's proposals for the restructuring of its maintenance function. It made clear that it supports Network Rail's goal of introducing greater efficiency into its maintenance practices in ways that sustain and improve safety.

Railways: Accidents

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* collisions and *(b)* near misses between trains and road vehicles on level crossings have resulted in disruption to rail services in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [325149]

Chris Mole: Collisions between trains and road vehicle on the railways are reported to the independent Office of Rail Regulation under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95).

The Office of Rail Regulation has provided the information shown in the following table:

Collisions between trains and road vehicles at level crossings 2005-08

	Number
2005	20
2006	13
2007	16
2008	22
2009	[1]

[1] Information not yet published

Near misses are not reportable under Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Office of Rail Regulation data on service disruption resulting from railway incidents would include disruption due to pedestrian-train collisions, acts of vandalism and cable theft, and cannot be disaggregated to the level of detail requested. However, it is likely that all collisions between trains and road vehicles at level crossings will have caused some degree of disruption to rail services.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* drivers and *(b)* passengers of (i) trains and (ii) vehicles have been (A) injured and (B) killed in collisions on level crossings between trains and road vehicles in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [325151]

Chris Mole: Accidents and incidents on the railways are reported to the independent Office of Rail Regulation under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95).

The Office of Rail Regulation has provided the information shown in the following table:

Persons injured/killed in road vehicle-train collisions on level crossings 2005-08

	Trains				Road vehicles	
	Drivers		Passengers		Road vehicle occupants[1] (passengers/drivers)	
	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed
2005	1	0	5	0	4	6
2006	0	0	0	0	1	1
2007	1	0	0	0	3	4
2008	2	0	0	0	6	3
2009	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]

[1] Road vehicle occupants are not categorised as driver or passenger.
[2] Information not yet published

Railways: Bus Services

Willie Rennie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to train operating companies of rail replacement *(a)* buses and *(b)* coaches in each of the last five years. [325137]

Chris Mole: The costs of providing rail replacement buses and coaches are not specifically monitored by the Department for Transport. These costs form part of train operating companies' normal operating expenditure, and are not individually reported.

Railways: Chesham

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of properties in Chesham and Amersham constituency likely to be affected by the proposed High Speed Two route. [322675]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* The effects of the recommended route on properties will be made available as part of the Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS), on which work is continuing. The AoS will be published later in the year in order to inform the formal public consultation which we expect to launch in the autumn. The Government will write to the owners of relevant properties at this time. Additional design work will be required to refine HS2 Ltd.'s proposals, and this would be likely to reduce the number of properties affected.

Railways: Construction

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to his contribution of 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 60WH, on High Speed 2 (Buckinghamshire), what steps his Department has taken to try to address concerns of individuals and organisations needing financial assistance to respond to the consultation; and what means his Department has established for such concerns to be raised. [325085]

Mr. Khan: Pursuant to my answer during that debate, at which I said we would try to address any such concerns raised directly with the Department for Transport, I can confirm that we have not yet received any such representations from individuals and organisations needing financial assistance to respond to the autumn consultation.

HS2 Ltd. has been asked to carry out pre-consultation engagement with a range of stakeholders, such as local authorities and representative groups, to inform effective communication of the autumn consultation and its materials, particularly in areas that are likely to be affected by the development proposals. This will provide further opportunity for these bodies to raise issues with the Department.

Roads: Accidents

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many pedestrians have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in accidents on roads in Greater London in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) 2009 and (iv) 2010 to date; and if he will make a statement. [325310]

Paul Clark: The number of pedestrians killed and injured in reported road accidents in London in 2007 and 2008 are shown in the following table. Data are not available yet for 2009 and 2010. Data for 2009 will be published in June 2010. Similarly, data for 2010 will be published in 2011.

Killed and injured pedestrian casualties in reported road accidents: London, 2007-08

	Killed	Injured	All casualties
2007	109	5,151	5,260
2008	95	5,036	5,131

Measures to make roads safer for pedestrians include providing better infrastructure, promoting child pedestrian training, improved training and testing for motorists and advice and guidance to pedestrians in The Highway Code on crossing the road and making themselves conspicuous.

Other initiatives such as anti drink/drug-drive and speeding campaigns, the provision of 20 mph zones can also contribute to pedestrian safety.

We are also promoting wider use of 20 mph zones in residential areas and roads with high cycle and pedestrian activity and we are intending to publish revised guidance for local highway authorities.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to his Department's press release of 24 March 2010, on Highways Agency highways maintenance planning, what assessment he has made of the effect of such plans on levels of payments to local authorities for jointly contracted highways work. [325323]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency has been set a target to achieve annual efficiencies of £90 million from its maintenance and renewals budget through improved contracting, better commercial management and longer term planning. Achievement of these efficiencies does not assume additional joint contracting for highways works with local authorities.

Rolling Stock

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for how many additional carriages for *(a)* the Northern Trains fleet and *(b)* the total fleet contracts have been let under his Department's franchises since April 2009. [325248]

Chris Mole: The number of additional carriages contracted for Northern Rail since 1 April 2009 are 18. The Department for Transport is currently in discussions with Northern Rail about providing further additional carriages. For other franchises let by the Department for Transport, the number of additional carriages contracted are 188 for National Express East Anglia; 41 for First Capital Connect; 30 for First Great Western; and eight for East Midlands Trains. In addition 28 additional vehicles for London Midland were contracted on 31 March 2009.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department has taken to meet the commitments in the 2007 Rail White Paper in relation to carriages for Northern Trains; and whether those commitments will be met without new train orders. [325249]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has recently announced an agreement with Northern Rail to add vehicles to its rolling stock fleet.

The £300 million programme of electrification announced for the North West will allow for the cascade of electric rolling stock from Thameslink. This will provide additional capacity, on well as improving the speed and reliability of services. The Department is also currently finalising new forecasts of passenger demand, which it will use to assess the requirement for any further additional rolling stock.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of carriage provision for passengers from Greater Manchester on *(a)* Northern Rail and *(b)* Transpennine services; and if he will make a statement. [325250]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has commissioned a study of current and forecast demand for rail passenger services in the North of England cities. Final results are expected shortly.

Waterloo Station

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 271-73W, on Waterloo station, what the timetable is for the *(a)* physical integration with the domestic terminal and *(b)* return to operational use of platforms 20 to 24 of Waterloo International Terminal. [324769]

Chris Mole: Work to convert platform 20 of Waterloo International for domestic usage has been completed.

Discussions continue between the Department for Transport, Network Rail and Stagecoach South West Trains to agree the most appropriate way to integrate the remainder of the former Eurostar platforms at Waterloo International terminal for use by domestic train services.

The Office of Rail Regulation issued a letter to Network Rail on 3 September 2009 which included specific requirements in respect of the use of Waterloo and Waterloo International stations as part of the Control Period 4 (2009-14) enhancements delivery plan for Network Rail. A copy of this letter is available at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/enh-cp4dp-030909.pdf

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what consideration the Secretary of State has given to the *(a)* sale and *(b)* transfer of Waterloo International station to Network Rail; and if he will make a statement. [324770]

Chris Mole: The British Railways Board (Residuary) Ltd. is currently exploring a number of options for the future of Waterloo International regarding both the arrangements required to support the return of passenger services to the former Eurostar platforms and the commercial development of the space below.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether any application to integrate platforms 20 to 24 of Waterloo station into the domestic terminal would require planning consent from the London borough of Lambeth. [324771]

Chris Mole: The works required to bring back the former Eurostar platforms at Waterloo station do not require planning consent from the London borough of Lambeth.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Badgers: Crime

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to tackle the persecution of badgers since this was set as one of the wildlife crime priorities for 2009-10; and what plans he has to increase the level of protection for badgers. [324632]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In addition to the general protection afforded to wildlife, badgers are specifically protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Badgers and their setts are fully protected. I have no plans to alter this protection.

DEFRA, together with the Home Office, is the main source of funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU). Progress on action to tackle the badger persecution wildlife crime priority is set out in the NWCU's tactical assessment (February 2010). The overall objective is to improve and increase the recording of incidents, crimes and intelligence for badger persecution; and improve the investigation process and increase awareness of badger persecution across the UK. Several meetings of the priority delivery group have taken place and prevention, intelligence and enforcement work taking place. Details of the specific actions being taken cannot be disclosed as they relate to restricted enforcement and intelligence information.

Departmental: Location

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on the relocation of staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [321430]

Dan Norris: DEFRA does not keep electronic information to show where individuals have relocated from. We would therefore need to locate every DEFRA relocation file over the last five years and establish the old home location. This means that collated data cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate Defra Estates has made of the extent of the use of *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies within buildings occupied by (i) central Government departments and (ii) the entire Government estate since the publication of the Delivery Plan for Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate. [324952]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has made no such estimate, but can confirm that it has installed a total of 33 voltage optimisers/equivalent technologies across its estate. 32 of the units are powerPerfector voltage optimisers and one is an EMS Powerstar.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324977]

Dan Norris: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has installed a total of 33 voltage optimisers/equivalent technologies across its estate. 32 of the units are powerPerfector voltage optimisers and one is an EMS Powerstar.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322075]

Dan Norris: Items of DEFRA property lost or stolen are all recorded as 'losses'. The following table shows losses with an estimated value (at the time of loss) of over £50. Figures are for 2009-10 to date:

Description	*Number*	*Estimated value (£)*
BlackBerrys	6	1,238
Cameras	1	75
Laptops	33	12,750
Mobile telephones	3	220
Projectors	3	2,150
Monitors	7	654
Tom Tom Device	2	200
Desktop PC	4	1,050
Binoculars	2	200
Total		18,537

All IT equipment is the property of IBM which has provided outsourced IT services to DEFRA since October 2004. Therefore, under the service charge arrangements, IT items do not have a direct cost to the department if lost or stolen.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department and agencies have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320459]

Dan Norris: The Department contributed around £150,000 to a cross-government fund for Real Help Now activity in January 2009.

In 2009-10 FY, DEFRA also badged already planned campaigns on resource efficiency under Real Help Now. The total media expenditure for these campaigns was £289,337.

There was no spend on campaigns relating to Building Britain's Future.

Detailed spend by DEFRA agencies is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Consultation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the title is of each consultation document his Department has published in each year since its creation; and what the date of *(a)* publication, *(b)* closure and *(c)* Government's response was in each case. [325061]

Dan Norris: The Department only holds records of consultations centrally dating from 2006. A table showing the title and date of publication and closure of each consultation has been placed in the House Library. Information related to consultations closed prior to this period could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

DEFRA also publishes this information alongside the Government's response to each consultation (issued within the last year) on its website:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/index.htm

Departmental Sick Leave

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many days absence through illness staff in his Department have had in each month since 1997. [322549]

Dan Norris: The information requested could be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost, therefore we have supplied data which shows the total and average working days lost through sickness in DEFRA and its Agencies in each year since 2002. Data for earlier years are not available. The end dates of the 12-month periods vary between years due to the way that data were collected at the time. Data to the 12 months ending 31 December 2009 are given as information to 31 March 2010 are not yet available.

12 months ending	Total working days lost	Number of staff	Average working days lost
31 December 2002	120,800	14,209	8.5
31 December 2003	121,200	13,846	8.8
31 December 2004	107,000	13,857	7.7
31 December 2005[1]	102,000	12,537	8.1
31 March 2007	92,600	12,294	7.5
31 March 2008	89,100	11,185	8.0
31 March 2009	80,100	10,066	8.0
31 December 2009	79,137	9,970	7.9

[1] Excludes Central Science Laboratory for which data is not available.

DEFRA and its Agencies closely monitor sickness absence in line with their sickness absence policies and by benchmarking sick absence rates against Cabinet Office figures for the civil service. Policies and good working practices are in place to reduce both long term and frequent short term sick absences. These include facilitating timely employee access to occupational health advice, medical or wellbeing interventions. Additionally, managers hold return-to-work interviews to discuss employees' reasons for absence, including any work-related issues connected with their absence. Where necessary, action plans will be agreed to improve employees' attendance at work.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the travel guidelines issued to staff of each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [315142]

Dan Norris: The Department does not hold this information centrally. Its Agencies and NDPBs issue their own travel guidance to staff. We have requested that they forward their travel guidelines to you.

Dogs: Animal Breeding

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will extend the terms of reference of his Department's consultation on dangerous dogs legislation to include policy on dog breeding. [324735]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The public consultation currently being conducted by the Home Office and DEFRA is aimed at considering whether current dangerous dogs legislation adequately protects the public. We will consider any suggestions for legislative changes that will help better protect the public from dangerous dogs. However, the health and welfare issues surrounding dog breeding have recently been considered by Professor Sir Patrick Bateson in his independent inquiry into dog breeding along with the Associate Parliamentary Group on Animal Welfare (APGAW) in their report into pedigree dog breeding. As we are currently considering both reports and need to gauge how the wider veterinarian and scientific communities respond to their recommendations, it would not be appropriate to extend the consultation on dangerous dogs to include health and welfare issues surrounding dog breeding.

Flood Control: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on flood protection measures in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* City of York constituency in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in each year since 2000. [324220]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 377W.

Figures have not been given in real terms as this would not give a meaningful comparison. A great deal of the programme is capital and the inflation rate on this would not have been in line with the retail price index.

Heathrow Airport: Exhaust Emissions

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the mean annual concentration was of *(a)* nitrous oxides, *(b)* nitrogen dioxide, *(c)* concentrations of particulates (PM10), *(d)* ozone, *(e)* carbon monoxide, *(f)* sulphur dioxide and *(g)* carbon dioxide recorded by monitoring stations in the vicinity of Heathrow Airport in each year from 2000 to 2009. [323781]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Air pollutants are monitored throughout the UK via the Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN). Information on the AURN can be found on the Air Quality website at:

www.airquality.co.uk

Available data on the mean annual concentration of pollutants around Heathrow are given in the following table.

Concentrations of CO_2 are not subject to air quality monitoring—it is not an air quality pollutant and, therefore, not routinely monitored to identify small-scale variations in concentrations. Trends in background concentrations of CO_2 are measured at Mace Head Research Station on the west coast of Ireland in order to monitor long-term trends in this important greenhouse gas.

Monitoring station and pollutant monitored	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Hillingdon SO_2 micrograms m^{-3}	10	9	7	8	3	3	2	2	—	—
Harlington CO mg. m^{-3}	—	—	—	—	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	—	—
Hillingdon CO Mg. m^{-3}	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	—	—
Harlington NO micrograms m^{-3}	—	—	—	—	22	22	19	26	19	21
Hillingdon NO micrograms m^{-3}	61	49	44	50	43	40	38	39	39	41
Harlington NO_2 micrograms m^{-3}	—	—	—	—	38	38	37	37	34	36
Hillingdon NO_2 micrograms m^{-3}	48	46	43	54	47	45	46	45	51	54

Monitoring station and pollutant monitored

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Harlington NO_2 micrograms m^{-3}	—	—	—	—	72	72	65	77	66	68
Hillingdon NO_2 micrograms m^{-3}	141	121	113	129	112	106	107	105	111	116
Harlington O_3 micrograms m^{-3}	—	—	—	—	33	32	37	32	35	35
Hillingdon O_3 micrograms m^{-3}	22	26	26	28	27	26	28	30	31	26
Harlington PM_{10} micrograms m^{-3}	—	—	—	—	26	25	27	25	24	16
Hillingdon PM_{10} micrograms m^{-3}	25	26	25	30	27	27	29	26	—	—

Notes:
1. SO_2: Data capture 72 per cent. in 2007. Data capture > 75 per cent. in all other cases.
2. CO: Data capture 17 per cent. for London Harlington in 2008, 69 per cent. for London Hillingdon in 2007. Data capture > 75 per cent. in all other cases.
3. PM_{10}: Data capture 73 per cent. for London Harlington in 2009, data capture > 75 per cent. in all other cases, 2000-08 data are TEOM measurements x 1.3 for conversion to indicative gravimetric equivalent. 2009 Harlington data are FDMS-TEOM (April onwards).
4. Due to re-structuring of the AURN in 2007 we do not have data for Hillingdon carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and PM_{10} in 2008 and 2009. Harlington was established as a new AURN site in 2004. *Glossary:* SO_2:Sulphur dioxide, an acid gas formed by the oxidation of sulphur impurities in fuel during combustion processes. CO: Carbon monoxide, a gas produced by the incomplete combustion of fuels. In urban areas the predominant source is traffic. PM_{10}: Particulate matter, particles with a diameter of less than 10 micrograms m-3. PM_{10} comes from a variety of natural and man-made sources such as sea salt and Saharan dust, and combustion processes. NO_2: Oxides of nitrogen consisting of nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). NO is a product of combustion processes, it reacts with ozone or oxygen to produce NO_2. O_3: Ozone, a highly reactive oxidising agent that has a range of health and material impacts. A natural background level of ozone exists. Ozone is not directly emitted and man-made sources result from a series of reactions in the atmosphere. CO_2: Carbon dioxide is a gas that is produced from the combustion of carbon containing fuels.

Japanese Knotweed: Weed Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to reduce the spread of Japanese knotweed. [324740]

Huw Irranca-Davies: After careful consideration of the evidence we have agreed to release the highly specialist psyllid - *Aphalara itadori* - to help control Japanese knotweed. Our intention is that as a long-term measure it will complement other actions aimed at managing this highly invasive non-native plant.

The psyllid will be released this spring at a small number of sites initially, and will be closely monitored before any further releases are made. We do not expect it to eradicate Japanese knotweed altogether but, if successful, it should in time stress the plant and reduce its invasive capacity as well as the effort and cost of managing it.

Members: Correspondence

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Arundel and South Downs of *(a)* 26 November 2009 on the Lancet study and *(b)* 11 December 2009 on EU negotiations on food labelling. [325061]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have no record of receiving these letters, and invite the hon. Member to send them again.

Nature Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1353W, on fish: conservation, what his Department's definition is of sustainable resources; and if he will make a statement. [325178]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department considers sustainable sources of fish as those managed and harvested in ways that do not lead to overfishing or depletion of exploited populations, for example, which meet certain established standards, such as those of organic certification and the Marine Stewardship Council.

Peat: Compost

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to reduce the level of availability of peat-based composts. [324741]

Huw Irranca-Davies: On 8 March, the Secretary of State launched an Act on CO_2 campaign to raise awareness of the environmental impacts associated with buying peat-based composts and encouraging amateur gardeners to buy peat-free alternatives. At the same time, the Secretary of State announced an ambition for the compost sold in garden centres and DIY stores to be peat free by 2020.

We are now developing a detailed consultation on a future policy framework to further reduce the horticultural use of peat, including ambitions for the professional horticulture sector. We plan to publish the consultation later in the year.

Pet Travel Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to extend the number of species covered by the pet travel scheme. [324738]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no plans at present to extend the requirements of the pet travel scheme to other species.

Rural Payments Agency: Telephone Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how long on average it took Rural Payments Agency call centres to *(a)* answer and *(b)* complete a call from a member of the public in the latest period for which figures are available; and what percentage of calls made to call centres were dropped in that period. [323524]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Rural Payments Agency's customer service centre (CSC) received 41,346 calls in February 2010 and the average speed to answer each call was 25 seconds with the average length of each call being 10 minutes and five seconds.

During this period 9.3 per cent. of calls were abandoned when the CSC was either unable to answer the call before the customer rang off or the call was answered but the customer then ended the call prematurely.

Sewers

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to bring forward regulations for the transfer of responsibility of private drains and sewers to water companies. [324234]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have previously made clear our intention to consult on proposals for regulations to implement the transfer of private sewers before the summer, setting out the detailed arrangements for transfer. I am pleased to say that we will be able to bring forward proposals for consultation on the regulations by the end of May.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what organisations supplied goods and services to the Waste and Resources Action Programme in the last 12 months; and what the address is of each supplier. [324372]

Dan Norris: The Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP's) suppliers are numerous, and range from companies receiving capital support greater than £1 million to providers of low value office supplies. A list of the 116 companies that have provided services worth in excess of £100,000 in the last 12 months has been placed in the Library of the House.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each document submitted by Bristol city council as part of its application to become a waste incentive pilot. [324571]

Dan Norris: A copy of Bristol city council's proposal for a waste incentives scheme has been placed in the House Library.

Water Charges: Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of dwellings have their water charges based on domestic rateable values. [324527]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The latest figures show that 13.58 million, or 61.2 per cent. of domestic properties that are supplied by a water company in England and Wales have their water bills calculated using rateable value.

Zoos: Standards

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that zoos operate to standards consistent with *(a)* his Department's guidance, Standards of Modern Zoo Practice and *(b)* the provisions of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. [325254]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 places responsibility for the inspection and licensing of zoos with local authorities. The Act provides local authorities with all the powers they require to ensure that zoos operate to standards consistent with the Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice. On behalf of the Secretary of State, DEFRA takes responsibility for ensuring these standards are set and improved on where necessary.

The Secretary of State has a list of inspectors which he can call on to inspect zoos' compliance with the standards; the list includes veterinary practitioners and persons who are competent to inspect animals in zoos, advise on their welfare and advise on general zoo management issues.

Ministers have written to all local authorities reminding them of their licensing responsibilities, and DEFRA ensures biennial training seminars for zoos, local authorities and zoo inspectors are held to make them aware of their responsibilities. DEFRA holds a zoos database and reminds local authorities annually about forthcoming zoo inspections.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324669]

Angela E. Smith: This information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many times her Department has appealed against a decision notice from the Information Commissioner since 2005. [316060]

Tessa Jowell: Details of appeals to the Information Tribunal are available on the Tribunal's website:

http://www.informationtribunal.gov.uk/

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Ruislip Northwood (Mr. Hurd) of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Central Office of Information have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity to the (i) Real Help Now and (ii) Building Britain's Future themed campaigns to date. [320493]

Tessa Jowell: With regard to expenditure by the Cabinet Office on Real Help Now and Building Britain's Future, I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 103-104W.

I have asked the chief executive of the COI to reply to the hon. Member.

Departmental Waste

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what volume of waste was generated by Number 10 Downing Street in each of the last three years; what percentage of this was *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic, *(c)* glass, *(d)* metal, *(e)* electrical goods and batteries and *(f)* food waste; and what percentage of that waste was (i) disposed of securely, (ii) disposed of in landfill and (iii) recycled. [311838]

Angela E. Smith: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

Information on the Cabinet Office's Waste and Recycling performance can be found in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Government Communications

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what best practice guidance the Government Communications Network has published in the last 24 months. [323451]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Communications Network (GCN) does not publish formal guidance. Communications best practice material is available on the GCN website and is updated on a regular basis by GCN members using community tools (wiki and forums). This detailed information could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff from each Government Department and agency have attended courses at the National School of Government entitled *(a)* Managing your Confidence, *(b)* Influencing with Integrity, *(c)* Emotional Intelligence, *(d)* Mind Mapping, *(e)* Stress Management and *(f)* Managing Diversity in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [325119]

Tessa Jowell: This is a matter for the National School of Government. I have asked the principal and chief executive to assist by writing to you. The letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will *(a)* make available to the Iraq Inquiry and *(b)* place in the Library a copy of all advice from the Attorney-General to the Ministry of Defence prior to the beginning of the Iraq war that defines the individual criminal liability of military personnel under UK law; and if she will make a statement. [318458]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Secretary of State for Defence on 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 677W.

Job Creation: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many jobs have been created in Coventry since 2005. [325084]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many jobs have been created in Coventry since 2005. (325084).

The requested information is not available. The ONS does not produce statistics on the number of jobs created.

Lobbying

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what timetable the Government has set for introducing a statutory register of lobbyists; and whether an impact assessment has been produced. [324824]

Angela E. Smith: The Government have committed to introduce a statutory register of lobbyists. They plan to consult on their proposals as soon as possible.

Newspaper Licensing Agency

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what payments her Department has made to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in each of the last 10 years. [323588]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office has made the following payments to the Newspaper Licensing Agency in the last 10 years:

	Payment to the Newspaper Licensing Agency (£)
1998-99	273
1999-2000	407
2000-01	0
2001-02	0
2002-03	0
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	1,016
2006-07	1,169
2007-08	5,406
2008-09	9,072

The increase in costs from 2007-08 and 2008-09 is due to additional services such as scanning provided by the Newspaper Licensing Agency and a further licence purchased in 2008-09 for press cuttings.

VAT: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small and medium-sized enterprises were registered for value added tax in *(a)* Stockport metropolitan borough, *(b)* Greater Manchester and *(c)* the North West in 2009. [325043]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small and medium-sized enterprises were registered for value added tax in (a) Stockport Metropolitan Borough, (b) Greater Manchester and (c) the North West in 2009. [325043]

Annual statistics on counts of VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises are available for 2009 from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below is a subset of this, containing just VAT based enterprise statistics.

Count of VAT-based enterprises by geography and employment size band

	Employment size band			
	0 to 49 (small)	*50 to 249 (medium)*	*250+ (large)*	*Total*
North-west	157,135	3,030	815	160,980
Greater Manchester Metropolitan County	56,410	1,155	330	57,895
Stockport	7,680	135	30	7,845

HEALTH

NHS IT Programme

16. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of progress on the NHS IT programme. [324921]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The NHS IT programme is bringing benefits to doctors, nurses and, most importantly, to patients. The new NHS broadband network, digital imaging systems, choose and book and central databases are all in place.

All acute trusts and over 90 per cent. of primary care trusts in England, and all GPs, are using systems delivered as part of the National Programme. The NHS could not now function without the systems and services the programme has already delivered.

National Care Service

17. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on proposals for the National Care Service. [324922]

Phil Hope: I have had a number of discussions about reform of the care and support system in the course of my ministerial duties, including at the care and support conference hosted by the Secretary of State in February.

We have set out our proposals for reform of the care and support system in the White Paper "Building a National Care Service" published on 30 March.

NHS: Croydon

18. **Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the performance of the NHS in Croydon since May 2005. [324923]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Local trusts are measured against the NHS Performance Framework supported by the Care Quality Commission annual health check. This will help to ensure the safety and quality of care across all local health providers.

The local NHS in Croydon continually monitors its performance to ensure the provision of appropriate, safe, high quality services designed to meet the needs of local people.

Violence Against Women and Children

19. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for implementation of the recommendations of his Department's task force on the health aspects of violence against women and children. [324924]

Ann Keen: One of the task force report's recommendations was that an implementation group should be set up. This recommendation was fully accepted in the Government's interim response to the task force report and a chair has been appointed. One of the first tasks of the implementation group will be to develop an action plan for publication later this year.

Cancer Treatment: NICE

20. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he next expects to meet representatives of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to discuss treatments for cancer. [324926]

Ann Keen: No such meeting is planned.

Life Expectancy: York

21. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of his Department's policies on the average life expectancy of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in York since 1997. [324927]

Ann Keen: In the 10 years from 1997 to 2007, average life expectancy at birth has increased by 3.7 years for males and 1.9 years for females in the City of York unitary authority.

Alternative Medicine

22. **David Tredinnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the Government's response to the consultation on the statutory regulation of herbal medicine, acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine before the dissolution of Parliament. [324928]

Gillian Merron: A report is due to be submitted to Ministers and a statement will be made shortly.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many urgent care centres which were formerly accident and emergency departments were operating at *(a)* 100 per cent., *(b)* 95 per cent., *(c)* 90 per cent., *(d)* 85 per cent., *(e)* 80 per cent., *(f)* 75 per cent., *(g)* 70 per cent., *(h)* 65 per cent., and *(i)* 60 per cent. of their capacity in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [325070]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the clinical outcomes in hospital trusts where accident and emergency departments have had their status changed to urgent care centres; and if he will make a statement. [325071]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is for the national health service locally to monitor clinical outcomes and ensure that local services meet the needs of patients.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Standards

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust, *(c)* Peterborough Primary Care Trust and *(d)* England were attended to within (i) 10, (ii) 30, (iii) 60 and (iv) 120 minutes of arriving at an accident and emergency unit in the latest period for which figures are available. [324594]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not available in the format requested. The Department does not hold data by constituency. However, the following table sets out the number of attendances in 2008-09 in accident and emergency (A&E) departments operated by acute trusts based within the Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) area, the Peterborough PCT area, and England, by the time spent between arrival and departure from A&E. Since the data are collected by acute trust rather than by PCT, the data may include attendances from A&E departments located outside the PCT area. For example, Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust operates a type 3 A&E department (a minor injuries unit) at Stamford and Rutland hospital in Lincolnshire.

Number of A&E attendances, by time from arrival to departure from the department, 2008-09

Duration to departure from A&E	*Cambridgeshire PCT*	*Peterborough PCT*	*England*
<10 minutes	291	861	315,480
<30 minutes	3,904	8,841	1,335,577
<60 minutes	17,622	19,099	3,241,108
<120 minutes	53,464	37,569	6,959,044
All attendances (with a known time to departure)	121,982	68,698	13,445,333
Attendances where time to departure is not known	3	0	348,717

Source:
Experimental A&E Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Arthritis: Health Education

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will run a campaign within the next 12 months to raise people's awareness of the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis, with particular reference to seeking prompt medical attention. [324372]

Ann Keen: The Department is considering the findings and recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee in its report "Services for people with rheumatoid arthritis". The Department will respond formally to the recommendations made by the Committee in the form of a Treasury Minute in due course.

Information on the symptoms and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis is widely available. For example, NHS Choices provides a wealth of information to assist patients in recognising the symptoms of a variety of conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis.

Arthritis: Health Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken in response to the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee in its recent report on Services for people with rheumatoid arthritis, HC 46, on take up of the Commissioning Pathway by primary care trusts; and how it intends to evaluate the effect of the Pathway on patients. [324373]

Ann Keen: The Department is still considering the findings and recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee in its report "Services for people with rheumatoid arthritis". The Department will respond formally to the recommendations made by the Committee in the form of a Treasury Minute in due course.

The good practice commissioning pathway for inflammatory arthritis provides a high level service model that supports primary care trusts (PCTs) as commissioners of health care services. PCTs need to ensure that their populations have access to inflammatory arthritis services that reflect their needs, priorities and aspirations and that the design and provision of these services is evidence based.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by his Department in reviewing evidence on the need for better access to flare-up and pain management services for people with rheumatoid arthritis; and when it will produce an action plan. [324374]

Ann Keen: The Department is considering the findings and recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee in its report "Services for people with rheumatoid arthritis". The Department will respond formally to the recommendations made by the Committee in the form of a Treasury Minute in due course.

Personalised care planning and supporting people to self care enables people to have the information they need to make informed choices and decisions in order to manage any exacerbation of their condition. There is information on NHS Choices to support self-management of long-term pain including free patient information leaflets.

Our own information, taken from national surveys such as the GP survey, indicates over 60 per cent. of people with a long-term condition (LTC) in England have reported that they have agreed a plan about how to best manage their LTC.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance has been issued to primary care trusts on assessing what services are required for people with rheumatoid arthritis to enable them to decide what services they need to provide in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [324375]

Ann Keen: The Department has not issued specific guidance to primary care trusts on assessing what services they need to provide.

Carer's Allowance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals stopped receiving carer's allowance due to taking up employment through which they earned more than £95 per week in each of the last five years. [323898]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

We are committed to helping carers combine their caring role with paid employment wherever possible, as this can alleviate some of the negative financial effects that carers have to contend with. This is why we have made available up to £38 million to help carers enter or re-enter the employment market.

The White Paper—'Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment'—announced an increase in the carer's allowance earnings limit from £95 to £100 with effect from April 2010. Many carers want to combine caring with paid employment. This increase will ensure that the real value of the earnings limit is maintained.

The information requested is in the table.

Numbers of carer's allowance cases where entitlement has stopped due to exceeding the carer's allowance earnings limit

	Number of cases where entitlement has ceased	*Caseload*	*Percentage of total caseload*
2005-2006	10,300	765,618	1.3
2006-2007	9,960	813,355	1.2
2007-2008	9,630	858,961	1.1
2008-2009	9,540	913,306	1.0

Notes:
1. Caseload figures for 2005/06 to 2008/09 are year end figures (March).
2. The figures are at one decimal point, in order to show the difference year on year, because if the figures are rounded to a whole figure they will all be 1 per cent.
3. The numbers represent the number of cases where carer's allowance entitlement has been terminated because the customer's earnings, after allowable expenses had been deducted, exceeded the carer's allowance earnings limit.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions - Carer's Allowance Quarterly Management Information Statistics

The carer's allowance earnings limit has changed during the period covered by the above figures. The earnings limit was as follows in the periods shown in the following table.

Period	*Carer's allowance earnings limit (£)*
11 April 2005 to 9 April 2006	82
10 April 2006 to 8 April 2007	84
9 April 2007 to 30 September 2007	87
1 October 2007 to 11 April 2010	95

Cervical Cancer: Health Education

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase public awareness of cervical cancer; and if he will make a statement. [324925]

Ann Keen: The Cancer Reform Strategy's National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative (NAEDI) aims to improve the public's awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer and encourage those with symptoms to seek help earlier than they currently do.

With health professionals, patient groups and the voluntary sector, we have developed key messages for cervical cancer. These are available on the NHS Choices website. The Department of Health encourages charities and other stakeholders to use them widely in awareness raising activities.

The Department will be working closely with the Eve Appeal, a charity that funds research into gynaecological cancers, to support wider communication of cervical cancer signs and symptoms. This will be evaluated using the Cancer Awareness Measure (CAM), developed by Cancer Research UK, which can be used to test and monitor the impact and effectiveness of cancer awareness work at both national and local levels.

Construction: Health Hazards

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on human health of exposure to the construction material known as SMR; and if he will make a statement. [302980]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

SMR (structural materials for reinstatement) is a generic term applied to reprocessed materials used in the reinstatement of excavations in construction work. As such it relates to a range of materials with widely differing compositions. No specific assessment has been made on the health impacts of exposure to SMR.

I have asked the Health and Safety Executive to consider this matter further though and to write to the hon. Member directly.

Contraceptives

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effect on usage of the contraceptive pill of the poster entitled *(a)* contraception-implant.pdf and *(b)* contraception-IUS.pdf, available on the NHS website. [324994]

Gillian Merron: The "Sex. Worth talking about" campaign aims to encourage people to investigate all their contraceptive options and to consider which method might best fit their needs and lifestyle. These two posters form part of this campaign and are designed to highlight two particular contraceptive choices which might be less familiar to the public than the contraceptive pill.

The campaign has been running since 30 November 2009 and it is therefore too early to know if these posters have had an effect on usage of the oral contraceptive pill.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's campaign on usage of the oral contraceptive pill; and if he will make a statement. [324995]

Gillian Merron: The "Sex. Worth talking about" campaign highlights that there are 15 contraceptive options available, including two types of contraceptive pill. The campaign is designed to encourage people to investigate all their contraceptive options and to consider

which method might best fit their lifestyle. People are advised to discuss their options with a health care professional, as medical considerations may impact an individual's final choice.

The campaign has been running since 30 November 2009 and it is therefore too early to know if there has been an effect on usage of the oral contraceptive pill.

Dementia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department had spent on its most recent dementia awareness campaign on the latest date for which figures are available. [324887]

Phil Hope: The overall advertising spend for the dementia awareness campaign in 2009-10 was £1,587,106.

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department and its non-departmental bodies are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323071]

Phil Hope: Guidance produced under the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative encourages and shows public sector bodies how they can specify higher animal welfare standards, including farm assurance schemes and higher level schemes such as the RSPCA's Freedom Foods standards.

In February 2008, The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) alerted public bodies to the Government's commitment to the 2012 deadline for an European Union-wide ban on the use of conventional cages for laying hens, so that buyers recognised the welfare benefits of alternative production systems, compared with conventional cages and would reflect this in any future contracts. DEFRA have also developed contract award criteria that give a higher weighting to pig meat meeting higher-level welfare standards.

Staff restaurant and hospitality catering for departmental staff is provided by Quadrant Catering and Eurest Services. Both of whom are part of Compass Group UK and Ireland, one of the United Kingdom's largest contract caterers. Compass aim to provide as much ethically sourced food as is possible as part of these catering and hospitality services.

The Compass Group see ethical sourcing as a combination of factors, which range from ensuring sustainability to animal welfare and endorse the Farm Animal Welfare Council's Five Freedoms concept. They provide full traceability of products and suppliers within their approved supply chain to ensure animals reared for meat, fish, milk and eggs are raised to high standards of animal welfare. This year, Compass Group ran a farm to fork outdoor-reared, free-range pork project.

We are not able to comment on plans for food procured by our non-departmental bodies, as this information is not held centrally and to provide this would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people his Department employs to maintain its social media and social networking sites; and how much it spent on maintaining those sites in the latest period for which figures are available. [324945]

Phil Hope: Nobody within the Department is employed specifically to maintain social media or social networking sites.

The Department's corporate social media channels are the responsibility of the e-communications and publishing team. This team spends approximately one hour per week on maintaining and updating these channels.

In the period 1 April 2009 to 26 March 2010, the Department incurred a total of £32.26 in direct costs for maintaining corporate social media channels.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on maintaining its Flickr photostream in the latest period for which figures are available. [324947]

Phil Hope: In the period 1 April 2009 to 26 March 2010, the Department incurred a total of £32.26 in direct costs for maintaining its Flickr photostream.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on maintaining its YouTube channel in the latest period for which figures are available. [324948]

Phil Hope: The Department does not incur any direct costs in maintaining its YouTube channel.

The Department's corporate social media channels are the responsibility of the e-Communications and Publishing team. This team spends approximately one hour per week on maintaining and updating these channels.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on maintaining its Twitter feed in the latest period for which figures are available. [324949]

Phil Hope: The Department does not incur any direct costs in maintaining its Twitter feed.

The Department's corporate social media channels are the responsibility of the e-Communications and Publishing team. This team spends approximately one hour per week on maintaining and updating these channels.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 56-7W, on departmental temporary employment, how much was spent on employing temporary staff in each of the last three years. [324329]

Phil Hope: In 2008-09, the total amount spent by the Department on whole-time equivalent temporary workers from the administration budget, comprising agency workers, contractors and consultants, was £16,458,992.

Prior to 2008-09, temporary workers were not recorded on the Department's Human Resources system and therefore this information is not held centrally.

To provide the total amount spent by the Department on employing temporary workers in 2006-07 and 2007-08 would incur disproportionate cost.

Diabetes

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each socio-economic group have type 2 diabetes. [324230]

Ann Keen: There are no data centrally collected. Data from the Quality and Outcome Framework (QOF) about the number of people recorded on diabetes registers are available for national health service organisations. However, it is not possible to separate the data by gender or socio-economic group.

This table provides data of the number of people diagnosed with diabetes in England.

	Number of people diagnosed with diabetes
2004-05	1,766,391
2005-06	1,890,663
2006-07	1,961,976
2007-08	2,088,335
2008-09	2,213,138

Diabetes: Health Services

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people with diabetes have been referred to a dietician for specialist dietary advice in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* primary care trust area; [324292]

(2) how many people with diabetes have seen a dietician for specialist dietary advice, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* primary care trust area, in each of the last five years.; [324293]

(3) what the average waiting time was for a person with diabetes in each primary care trust area to see a dietician for specialist dietary advice in the latest period for which figures are available. [324294]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders, including practice based commissioners, local government and the public to assess the needs of their local population and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of services provided by dieticians.

Diabetes: Nurses

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diabetes specialist nurse posts have been *(a)* made redundant and *(b)* transferred to general nursing posts in each primary care trust area in each of the last five years. [324229]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Diabetes specialist nurses are not separately identified within the quarterly redundancy collection or the NHS Workforce Census.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 966-67W, on drugs: rehabilitation, how many deaths have been caused by methadone overdose in *(a)* Sefton and *(b)* the UK in each year since 2000; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of methadone abuse. [325008]

Gillian Merron: It is not possible to answer how many deaths are caused solely by methadone.

However, there were 10 deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning and methadone was mentioned on the death certificate in Sefton local authority between 2000 and 2007. Due to the small number these have not been broken down by year to protect confidentiality within birth and death statistics.

The following table provides the number of deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning, and methadone was mentioned on the death certificate, either alone or together with other substances in the United Kingdom for the years 2000 to 2007.

Figures on drug-related deaths identify all substances that were mentioned on the death record. Where more than one substance was mentioned, it is not possible to state which of them was primarily responsible for the death.

Deaths

	Number
2000	324
2001	314
2002	298
2003	288
2004	300
2005	293
2006	340
2007	440

Methadone is misused if it is taken by someone for whom it has not been prescribed; this is often because methadone prescriptions have been diverted onto the illegal drugs market. The main way that this diversion of methadone is tackled is through the supervised consumption of methadone for people who are receiving it to treat their addiction.

Supervision of consumption by an appropriate professional provides the best guarantee that the methadone is being taken as directed. The Department's guidelines for drug treatment in the UK recommend that when a person starts receiving methadone to treat their drug misuse, they should take each dose under the supervision of a nurse, doctor or community pharmacist for a minimum of three months, and this supervision should be relaxed only when their compliance is assured.

Genito-Urinary Medicine

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he next plans to renew the effectiveness and operation of the 2001 national strategy for sexual health. [325000]

Gillian Merron: In July 2008, the Sexual Health and HIV Independent Advisory Group published their review "Progress and priorities—working together for high quality sexual health" of the implementation of the 2001 national strategy for sexual health and HIV.

In July 2009, the Government published its response to the review "Moving forward: Progress and priorities—working together for high quality sexual health". In the response we said that as the current strategy comes to an end in 2011 we are already considering what further action will be needed to continue to make improvements in sexual health.

Copies of both reports have been placed in the Library.

On 4 February 2010, we held a national consultative conference on sexual health and HIV. The conference was very well attended and received. The outputs from the day, together with other information, data and evidence will be used to develop a refreshed strategy over the coming year.

Health Services: Finance

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people in each primary care trust area *(a)* have been assessed for a personal health budget, *(b)* are in receipt of payment from a personal health budget, *(c)* have declined to use a personal health budget and *(d)* are awaiting assessment for a personal health budget. [325053]

Phil Hope: 70 pilot sites are now testing personal health budgets. A full list of pilot sites is available from the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Highqualitycareforall/DH_090018

The sites are currently in the process of developing their proposals further, and so the majority are not yet at the stage of offering personal budgets to individuals.

During this programme, pilot sites have selected the conditions and groups they wish to include, based on their local circumstances. The number of people involved will also be decided locally, as sites develop their proposals.

However, as we said in 'NHS 2010-15: From good to great', in the longer term our ambition is that everyone who could benefit from a personal health budget should be offered one. A copy of the publication has already been placed in the Library. While this will be informed by the outcome of the evaluation, this could ultimately mean that millions of national health service patients will benefit.

Health Services: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 122W, on health services: Merseyside, what steps his Department is taking to increase access to healthcare services for people with learning difficulties; and what assessment he has made of progress made by Sefton Primary Care Trust in this regard. [325006]

Phil Hope: 'Valuing People Now (VPN)', a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, sets out a three-year cross-government strategy for people with learning disabilities. One of the priorities in VPN is about ensuring that people with learning disabilities get access to better health care services. A number of initiatives have been put in place, including the publication of guidance to ensure mainstream health care meets the needs of people with learning disabilities. In addition, all strategic health authorities (SHAs) have started to implement a self-assessment framework which brings together people who plan and deliver health care services with people with learning disabilities, families and carers. On a local and regional level, SHAs and primary care trusts (PCTs) judge how well health services are meeting the needs of people with learning disabilities and plan for improvements.

Information with regard to how the Sefton PCT is meeting the health care needs of people with learning disabilities can be obtained directly from the PCT.

Health Services: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what new *(a)* medical treatments, *(b)* surgical procedures, *(c)* drugs, *(d)* other therapies and *(e)* other services for patients have been introduced by (i) York Hospital NHS Trust, (ii) Selby and York Primary Care Trust and (iii) North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust in the last five years. [324227]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. The information may be available directly from the organisations named. Selby and York Primary Care Trust (PCT) now forms part of North Yorkshire and York PCT.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to *(a)* GPs, *(b)* primary care trusts and *(c)* NHS trusts on cardiac rehabilitation; and if he will make a statement. [324706]

Ann Keen: The national service framework (NSF) for coronary heart disease (CHD) (March 2000) sets out a ten year framework for action to prevent disease, tackle inequalities, save more lives, and improve the quality of life for people with heart disease. A copy has already been placed in the Library. Chapter Seven of the NSF for CHD issued appropriate guidance to the national health service regarding the provision of cardiac rehabilitation services. Implementation of this guidance is a matter for the local NHS, working in partnership with stakeholders and the local community. It is for NHS organisations to plan and develop services based on their specific local knowledge and expertise.

The Department has worked with NHS Improvement and the Cardiac Networks on a number of national priority projects on cardiac rehabilitation. Guidance has been published on risk assessment, pathway improvement and sharing good practice. This is available at:

www.improvement.nhs.uk/heart/HeartImprovementHome/CardiacRehabilitation/CardiacRehabKeydocuments/tabid/96/Default.aspx

The Department's Strategic Commissioning Development Unit is leading work to develop a commissioning pack for cardiac rehabilitation. This is for use by primary care trusts to enable them to commission quality services and encourage providers to deliver

healthcare services more productively. This will support commissioners to manage the delivery of cardiac rehabilitation services more effectively. The pack will be available in summer 2010.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to the introduction of a GP Quality Outcomes Framework for cardiac rehabilitation; and if he will make a statement. [324707]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not considered the introduction of a Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) indicator for cardiac rehabilitation. The prioritisation of potential indicators for inclusion in the QOF is the responsibility of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

NICE will open its online topic suggestions facility twice a year to allow stakeholders to submit suggestions for new indicators. The facility is currently closed and will be opened for the next round of suggestions in the autumn. A similar facility is also available which allows stakeholders to comment on existing indicators. This is available on their website at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qof/comment.jsp

Injuries: Dogs

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* 18 years and older were admitted to hospital through an accident and emergency department with external cause code W54 as a result of being bitten or struck by a dog in London in each year from 2007-08 to 2009-10. [323824]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is collected on people admitted to hospital as an in-patient with a cause of injury recorded as being bitten or struck by a dog. This does not include people only attending accident and emergency (A&E) for treatment. Data are available only for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09.

A count of finished admission episodes[1] through accident and emergency[2] as a result of being bitten or struck by a dog (W54[3]) in London strategic health authority of residence[4], 2007-08 to 2008-09, by age

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Under 18	*18 and over*	*Not known*
2008-09	110	288	1
2007-08	134	286	0

[1] *Finished admission episodes* A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] *Method of admission* We have defined accident and emergency admissions as finished admissions where the method of admission was: 21 = Emergency: via A&E services, including casualty department of provider. It should be noted that the following emergency admission methods have not been included as they are not related to admissions via A&E: 22 = Emergency: via general practitioner (GP) 23 = Emergency: via Bed Bureau, including the Central Bureau 24 = Emergency: via consultant out-patient clinic 28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another health care provider.

[3] *Cause code* A supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode is counted in HES. Cause code used: W54 = Bitten or struck by dog.

[4] *SHA/primary care trust (PCT) of residence* SHA or PCT containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment. *PCT/SHA data quality* In July 2006, the NHS reorganised strategic health authorities (SHA) and primary care trusts (PCT) in England from 28 SHAs into 10, and from 303 PCTs into 152. As a result data from 2006-07 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years. Data have been presented for those SHA/PCTs which have valid data for the breakdown presented here. As a result some SHA/PCTs may be missing from the list provided. *Assessing growth through time* HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Mental Health Services: Prescriptions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the safety of mental health nurse prescribing practices. [325252]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has made no recent assessment. Safety assessments of nurse prescribing practices are the responsibility of the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost-effectiveness of mental health prescribing. [325253]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have made no such estimate.

Mentally Disturbed Offenders: Homicide

Mr. David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people convicted of murder in each year since 1990 had received specialist mental health care services in the 12 months prior to their conviction. [325265]

Phil Hope: Precise annual data on the number of homicides or serious injuries in England committed by people with mental illness is not collected centrally. However, the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicides reports 50-70 homicides per year in England and Wales committed by current mental health patients and by others who had been in touch with mental health services in the 12 months prior to the homicide.

Most severely mentally ill people are not violent to others and very few are a risk to the general population.

Independent investigations of homicides involving people with a severe mental illness have found that not all such incidents are foreseeable or preventable.

NHS: Medical Treatments

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medical procedures had been undertaken in respect of NHS patients in each wave 1 independent sector treatment centre on the latest date for which figures are available. [325237]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The total number of medical procedures undertaken in each wave 1 independent sector treatment centre up to 31 January 2010 are summarised in the following table:

Treatment centre name	*Provider name*	*Procedures (discharges)*	*Diagnostic procedures*	*Primary care episodes*
Eccleshill NHS Treatment Centre	Nations Healthcare	25,775	106,090	0
Midlands NHS Treatment Centre	Nations Healthcare	28,420	0	0
Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre	PHG	18,217	0	0
Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre	UKSH	38,856	0	0
Greater Manchester Surgical Centre	Netcare Healthcare	24,061	0	0
Peninsula NHS Treatment Centre	PHG	15,282	0	0
Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	14,911	0	0
Boston NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	5,618	762	0
Clifton Park NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	10,797	0	0
The Cobalt NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	9,751	0	0
Gainsborough NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	3,667	0	0
New Hall NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	8,318	0	0
Horton NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	9,654	0	0
Blakelands NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	7,370	0	0
Reading NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	5,258	0	0
Nottingham NHS Treatment Centre at QMC	Nations Healthcare	29,637	0	0
Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre	Interhealth	17,098	0	0
Kidderminster NHS Treatment Centre	Interhealth	9,299	0	0
Mid Kent NHS Treatment Centre	PHG	23,100	25,969	0
North East London NHS Treatment Centre	PHG	21,512	0	0
Sussex Orthopaedic NHS Treatment Centre	Care UK	18,026	0	0
Havant NHS Diagnostic Centre	Care UK	11	21,539	0
Will Adams NHS Treatment Centre	Care UK	11,611	0	2,538
St. Mary's NHS Treatment Centre	Care UK	19,487	78,722	182,657
Mid and South Buckinghamshire NHS Diagnostic Centre	Care UK	0	56,249	0
Total		375,736	289,331	185,195

Pharmacy

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doses of medication were *(a)* received into pharmacies in and *(b)* prescribed in the adult custodial estate in England and Wales in the most recent year for which figures are available. [324861]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally. The responsibility for commissioning offender health services in publicly run prisons in England has been fully devolved to national health service primary care trusts since 2006 and as such pharmacy services are commissioned locally.

Local clinical audit and governance is in place for offender medication management as in the wider NHS.

Responsibility for the commissioning and provision of health services for offenders in Wales is devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government as it is for the population of Wales.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of people who use a prescription pre-payment certificate. [324897]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not hold information on the number of people who hold a prepayment certificate (PPC). Data are only available on the number of PPCs issued.

PPCs active on 24 March 2010 for England are detailed as follows:

Certificate duration	*Number of active prepayment certificates (Thousand)*
3 months	170.2
12 months	646.9
Total	817.2

Notes:
1. Active means the prepayment certificate expiry date was on or after 24 March 2010.
2. Figures may not add due to rounding.

Source:
NHS Help with Health Costs (HwHC) PPC database.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the review of prescription charges for people with long-term conditions; what timetable has been set for implementation; and if he will make a statement. [325234]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Wyre Forest (Dr. Taylor) on 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 61W.

Smoking

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department had spent on its Quit Smoking application on the latest date for which figures are available. [324895]

Phil Hope: As at 25 March 2010, the Department had spent £6,000 on its Quit Smoking desktop application and £10,000 on its Quit Smoking iPhone application.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people had downloaded his Department's Quit Smoking application on the latest date for which figures are available. [324896]

Phil Hope: As at 25 March 2010, the Quit Smoking desktop application had been downloaded 1,316 times, and the Quit Smoking iPhone application had been downloaded 5,080 times.

Snow and Ice

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff of his Department have taken authorised days of absence owing to severe weather in 2010. [324946]

Phil Hope: The Department does not hold information centrally on absences due to severe weather. Line managers are responsible for agreeing to practical and sensible measures (such as working from home and flexibility in working hours) to manage the effects of severe weather conditions.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were prosecuted for selling alcohol to under-age people in each police force area in the North West in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; and if he will make a statement. [325042]

Mr. Hanson: The number of the defendants found guilty at all courts for sale or allowing the sale of alcohol to a person under 18 all police force areas 2005 to 2008 can be viewed in the following table.

The north west consists of Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside which are shown in italics in the table.

A penalty notice for disorder (PND) can also be issued for these offences. For England and Wales 2,058 PNDs were issued in 2005, 3,195 PNDs issued in 2006, 3,583 PNDs issued in 2007, 2,824 PNDs issued in 2008.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned to be published in the autumn 2010.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18, in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, broken down by police force area

	2005		2006		2007		2008	
Police force Area	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Avon and Somerset	14	10	5	5	1	1	8	6
Bedfordshire	10	9	24	22	2	1	—	—
Cambridgeshire	9	7	27	21	10	10	8	8
Cheshire	8	5	6	6	6	5	9	7
Cleveland	14	12	11	7	13	13	10	8
Cumbria	8	6	1	1	1	1	4	3
Derbyshire	13	6	8	7	7	7	17	16
Devon and Cornwall	8	3	6	4	5	—	1	1
Dorset	35	7	7	—	2	—	3	3
Durham	2	—	—	—	3	—	7	6
Essex	8	8	16	10	14	13	4	2
Gloucestershire	5	5	10	10	3	3	10	7
Greater Manchester	117	92	160	112	35	30	39	29
Hampshire	11	8	2	—	4	4	9	6
Hertfordshire	3	1	40	35	24	21	2	2
Humberside	2	1	6	3	3	3	1	—
Kent	14	10	2	2	2	1	8	6
Lancashire	89	65	32	22	27	21	33	27
Leicestershire	27	15	45	31	55	49	9	9
Lincolnshire	11	1	10	1	3	3	6	6
Merseyside	16	11	34	16	28	20	24	17
Metropolitan Police	253	206	236	199	176	137	76	65
Norfolk	3	1	—	—	2	2	1	1
Northamptonshire	11	6	13	10	7	7	5	5
Northumbria	79	55	41	23	12	4	13	10

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18, in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, broken down by police force area

	2005		2006		2007		2008	
Police force Area	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
North Yorkshire	3	1	68	19	29	11	1	1
Nottinghamshire	11	9	37	29	5	3	7	4
South Yorkshire	18	8	10	9	9	2	4	4
Staffordshire	20	12	23	21	26	18	19	16
Suffolk	3	3	4	2	—	—	1	1
Surrey	13	11	18	17	5	3	8	6
Sussex	4	1	33	20	11	11	7	5
Thames Valley	15	5	36	14	20	14	2	1
Warwickshire	7	7	2	2	1	1	1	—
West Mercia	19	15	10	7	5	4	3	3
West Midlands	76	63	74	60	57	49	44	32
West Yorkshire	15	11	17	10	9	7	9	7
Wiltshire	23	9	10	6	6	3	1	1
Dyfed Powys	6	4	18	15	13	3	4	3
Gwent	16	12	21	14	13	8	9	7
North Wales	10	10	4	4	8	7	11	8
South Wales	55	41	72	58	29	23	23	17
North West total	238	179	233	157	97	77	109	83
England and Wales	1,084	772	1,199	854	693	523	439	366

Notes:
1. Data includes the following offence descripticns and corresponding statutes:
Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises—Licensing Act 1964 S. 169 A & B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S. 1, Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 S.3 [Sen. Para. 4(1)).
Sale of alcohol to person under 18—Licensing Act 2003 S. 146
Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18—Licensing Act 2003 S. 147
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18—Licensing Act 1964 S. 181A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 S. 17.
Persistently selling alcohol to children—Licensing Act 2003 S. 147A as added by Violent Crime reduction Act 2006.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
3. The "Total proceeded against" statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young Offenders

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each court service area aged between (i) 10 and 12, (ii) 13 and 16 and (iii) 17 and 18 years old were (A) proceeded against, (B) found guilty and (C) sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol-related offences in 2008. [323234]

Mr. Hanson: Information showing the number of males and females prosecuted at magistrates courts, convicted at all courts and those sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol related offences, England and Wales 2008 (latest available) broken down by police force area, can be viewed in Table 1 and Table 2.

A penalty notice for disorder (PND) may also be issued for certain alcohol-related offences. The number of PNDs issued for alcohol-related offences 2008 can be viewed in Table 3.

Table 1: Number of males prosecuted at the magistrates court, convicted at all courts and those sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol related offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Aged 10-12			Aged 13-16			Aged 17-18		
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced to immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced to immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced to immediate custody*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	16	15	—	95	88	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	6	6	—	35	33	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	3	3	—	27	25	1
Cheshire	1	1	—	22	21	—	88	87	1
Cleveland	—	—	—	26	23	—	75	72	1
Cumbria	—	—	—	31	28	—	82	79	1
Derbyshire	1	1	—	17	17	—	80	76	1
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	49	43	—	162	135	1
Dorset	—	—	—	14	12	—	60	57	—
Durham	—	—	—	42	37	—	83	78	—
Essex	—	—	—	11	10	—	79	73	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	7	7	—	39	36	—

Table 1: Number of males prosecuted at the magistrates court, convicted at all courts and those sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol related offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Aged 10-12			Aged 13-16			Aged 17-18		
	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	43	42	—	170	166	1
Hampshire	—	—	—	19	19	—	152	146	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	5	5	—	43	42	1
Humberside	—	—	—	13	12	—	30	30	3
Kent	—	—	—	31	30	—	109	100	1
Lancashire	—	—	—	88	82	—	213	193	2
Leicestershire	—	—	—	11	10	—	43	37	1
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	10	10	—	54	47	—
London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	—	49	41	—	137	124	—
Metropolitan Police	—	—	—	30	26	—	174	163	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	9	8	—	56	55	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	7	5	—	27	26	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	202	177	—	451	407	1
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	23	22	—	83	80	2
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	15	13	—	61	60	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	48	42	—	120	106	1
Staffordshire	—	—	—	18	15	—	77	75	1
Suffolk	—	—	—	3	3	—	34	34	—
Surrey	—	—	—	4	4	—	43	41	—
Sussex	—	—	—	23	22	—	126	117	2
Thames Valley	—	—	—	19	16	—	91	85	1
Warwickshire	—	—	—	6	6	—	35	35	1
West Mercia	—	—	—	24	21	—	101	97	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	28	23	—	150	139	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	75	60	—	174	153	1
Wiltshire	—	—	—	8	8	—	19	17	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	6	5	—	40	38	—
Gwent	—	—	—	18	15	—	71	65	1
North Wales	—	—	—	16	13	—	83	79	1
South Wales	—	—	—	8	7	—	82	79	2
England and Wales	2	2	—	1,103	988	—	3,954	3,695	29

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Alcohol-related offences for which cautions have been issued:
(a) Drunkenness simple.
(b) Drunkenness with aggravation.
(c) Offences by licenced person.
(d) Other offences against intoxicating liquor laws.
(e) Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs.
(f) Causing death by careless driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice Ref: IOS 173-10

Table 2: Number of females prosecuted at the magistrates court, convicted at all courts and those sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol related offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Age 10-12			Age 13-16			Age 17-18		
	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	4	4	—	16	15	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	3	2	—	4	4	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—
Cheshire	—	—	—	5	5	—	23	23	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	10	10	—	8	7	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	13	12	—	22	18	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	9	8	—	11	10	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	19	18	—	27	27	—
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—

Table 2: Number of females prosecuted at the magistrates court, convicted at all courts and those sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol related offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Age 10-12			Age 13-16			Age 17-18		
	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody
Durham	—	—	—	11	10	—	16	16	—
Essex	—	—	—	5	4	—	16	15	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	1	1	—	4	4	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	7	6	—	24	23	—
Hampshire	—	—	—	12	12	—	24	24	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	1	1	—	10	9	—
Humberside	—	—	—	2	1	—	6	5	—
Kent	—	—	—	14	14	—	15	14	—
Lancashire	1	1	—	30	23	—	58	51	—
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—
London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	—	18	15	—	29	24	—
Metropolitan Police	—	—	—	3	3	—	33	32	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	3	1	—	6	5	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	122	110	—	86	82	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	7	7	—	18	18	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	3	3	—	15	15	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	20	16	—	22	21	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	3	3	—	12	10	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Surrey	—	—	—	3	2	—	11	11	—
Sussex	—	—	—	7	5	—	16	14	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	1	1	—	23	20	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	2	2	—	3	3	—
West Mercia	—	—	—	5	4	—	12	11	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	11	9	—	30	28	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	33	27	—	32	27	1
Wiltshire	—	—	—	1	1	—	7	6	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	4	—
Gwent	—	—	—	4	4	—	14	12	—
North Wales	—	—	—	3	3	—	15	14	—
South Wales	—	—	—	5	4	—	16	15	—
England and Wales	1	1	—	400	351	—	713	660	1

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Alcohol-related offences for which cautions have been issued;
(a) Drunkenness simple.
(b) Drunkenness with aggravation.
(c) Offences by licenced person.
(d) Other offences against intoxicating liquor laws.
(e) Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs.
(f) Causing death by careless driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice Ref IOS 173-10

Table 3: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to persons aged 16 and aged 17 to 18 for alcohol related offences, England and Wales 2008[1, 2, 3]

	Aged 16		Aged 17-18	
Police force area	Male	Female	Male	Female
Avon and Somerset	9	1	50	14
Bedfordshire	4	—	17	2
British Transport police	2	2	46	13
Cambridgeshire	6	—	38	3
Cheshire	1	1	68	12
Cleveland	19	7	155	54
Cumbria	—	—	37	12
Derbyshire	20	3	103	34
Devon and Cornwall	6	2	128	28
Dorset	3	1	39	11
Durham	9	3	118	14

Table 3: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to persons aged 16 and aged 17 to 18 for alcohol related offences, England and Wales 2008[1, 2, 3]

	Aged 16		Aged 17-18	
Police force area	Male	Female	Male	Female

Table 3: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to persons aged 16 and aged 17 to 18 for alcohol related offences, England and Wales 2008[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	Aged 16		Aged 17-18	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Essex	1	2	31	5
Gloucestershire	—	3	19	1
Greater Manchester	16	7	123	37
Hampshire	6	1	105	27
Hertfordshire	14	2	65	11
Humberside	24	7	109	21
Kent	25	12	228	51
Lancashire	140	44	651	154
Leicestershire	—	—	24	8
Lincolnshire	3	1	16	4
London, City of	—	—	1	—
Merseyside	98	44	498	119
Metropolitan	17	7	219	46
Norfolk	2	2	49	1
North Yorkshire	20	4	118	23
Northamptonshire	11	5	54	8
Northumbria	34	13	517	155
Nottinghamshire	8	4	69	17
South Yorkshire	46	12	398	78
Staffordshire	7	3	77	15
Suffolk	2	—	13	1
Surrey	4	1	18	10
Sussex	3	3	132	25
Thames Valley	4	1	59	19
Warwickshire	—	—	19	3
West Mercia	4	—	86	14
West Midlands	46	9	366	78
West Yorkshire	14	6	202	53
Wiltshire	14	—	51	14
Dyfed Powys	1	—	22	7
Gwent	2	—	51	9
North Wales	7	1	98	17
South Wales	0	1	35	4
England and Wales	652	215	5,322	1,232

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] The Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) scheme was implemented in all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.
[3] Data are published at Age 16 and over.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice Ref: IOS 173-10

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* 10 to 12, *(b)* 13 to 15 and *(c)* 16 to 17 year olds were (i) cautioned and (ii) prosecuted for alcohol-related offences in each police force area in 2008. [323235]

Mr. Hanson: Information showing the number of offenders cautioned and defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for alcohol-related offences in England and Wales 2008 (latest available) broken down by age and police force area, can be viewed in tables 1 and 2 respectively.

A penalty notice for disorder (PND) may also be issued for certain alcohol-related offences. The number of PNDs issued for alcohol-related offences in 2008 can be viewed in table 3.

Table 1: Number of offenders aged under 18 cautioned[1] for alcohol-related offences[2], England and Wales, 2008, by age[3, 4]

Force	Age			
	10-12	13-15	16-17	10-17
Avon and Somerset	—	8	23	31
Bedfordshire		—	—	0
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	0
Cheshire	—	13	22	35
City of London		—	1	1
Cleveland	—	11	23	34
Cumbria	—	14	50	64
Derbyshire	—	10	12	22
Devon and Cornwall	—	34	62	96
Dorset	—	7	10	17
Durham	—	15	34	49
Essex	—	4	18	22
Gloucestershire	—	—	6	6
Greater Manchester	—	15	16	31
Hampshire	—	12	23	35
Hertfordshire	—	4	1	5
Humberside	—	2	4	6
Kent	—	15	15	30
Lancashire	1	37	76	114
Leicestershire	—	3	2	5
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	0
Merseyside	1	16	22	39
Metropolitan Police	1	4	1	6
Norfolk	—	—	1	1
North Yorkshire	—	10	20	30
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	0
Northumbria	3	129	190	322
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	0
South Yorkshire	—	25	13	38
Staffordshire	—	3	6	9
Suffolk	—	3	3	6
Surrey	—	1	5	6
Sussex	2	26	29	57
Thames Valley	1	6	11	18
Warwickshire	—	—	—	0
West Mercia	2	8	26	36
West Midlands	—	24	39	63
West Yorkshire	—	66	78	144
Wiltshire	—	1	3	4
Dyfed-Powys	2	5	9	16
Gwent	1	16	47	64
North Wales	1	13	23	37
South Wales	1	10	12	23

Table 1: Number of offenders aged under 18 cautioned[1] for alcohol-related offences[2], England and Wales, 2008, by age[3, 4]

Force	Age			
	10-12	13-15	16-17	10-17
England and Wales	16	570	936	1,522

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[3] Alcohol-related offences for which cautions have been issued:
(a) Drunkenness simple.
(b) Drunkenness with aggravation.
(c) Offences by licensed person.
(d) Other offences against intoxicating liquor laws.
(e) Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs.
(f) Causing death by careless driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice
Ref: IOS 174-10

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for alcohol-related offences[1], England and Wales, 2008, by age and police force area[2, 3]

Force	Age			
	10—12	13-15	16-17	10-17
Avon and Somerset	—	7	49	56
Bedfordshire	—	2	20	22
Cambridgeshire	—	—	16	16
Cheshire	1	14	53	68
City of London	—	—	—	0
Cleveland	—	12	52	64
Cumbria	—	16	72	88
Derbyshire	1	14	48	63
Devon and Cornwall	—	19	120	139
Dorset	—	5	28	33
Durham	—	20	89	109
Essex	—	5	38	43
Gloucestershire	—	2	27	29
Greater Manchester	—	23	87	110
Hampshire	—	13	86	99
Hertfordshire	—	1	17	18
Humberside	—	5	34	39
Kent	—	25	59	84
Lancashire	1	47	189	237
Leicestershire	—	—	25	25
Lincolnshire	—	1	29	30
Merseyside	—	18	117	135
Metropolitan Police	—	8	95	103
Norfolk	—	6	27	33
North Yorkshire	—	11	61	72
Northamptonshire	—	2	22	24
Northumbria	—	140	440	580
Nottinghamshire	—	5	30	35
South Yorkshire	—	30	104	134
Staffordshire	—	4	50	54
Suffolk	—	—	15	15
Surrey	—	1	30	31
Sussex	—	14	72	86
Thames Valley	—	5	46	51
Warwickshire	—	1	18	19
West Mercia	—	9	67	76
West Midlands	—	15	83	98
West Yorkshire	—	51	141	192
Wiltshire	—	2	13	15
Dyfed-Powys	—	1	23	24
Gwent	—	7	51	58
North Wales	—	9	52	61
South Wales	—	2	42	44
England and Wales	3	572	2,737	3,312

[1] Includes offences of:
(a) Drunkenness simple.
(b) Drunkenness with aggravation.
(c) Offences by licensed person.
(d) Other offences against intoxicating liquor laws.
(e) Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs.
(f) Causing death by careless driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice
Ref: IOS 174-10

Table 3: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 to 17 for alcohol-related offences England and Wales,2008[1, 2, 3]

Force	2008
Avon and Somerset	28
Bedfordshire	11
British Transport Police	29
Cambridgeshire	19
Cheshire	20
Cleveland	101
Cumbria	1
Derbyshire	71
Devon and Cornwall	50
Dorset	22
Durham	38
Essex	12
Gloucestershire	11
Greater Manchester	85
Hampshire	30
Hertfordshire	44
Humberside	77
Kent	122
Lancashire	491
Leicestershire	6
Lincolnshire	7
Merseyside	368
Metropolitan Police	95
Norfolk	16
Northamptonshire	40
Northumbria	258
North Yorkshire	73
Nottinghamshire	32
South Yorkshire	228
Staffordshire	41
Suffolk	7

Table 3: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 to 17 for alcohol-related offences England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3]

Force	2008
Surrey	12
Sussex	54
Thames Valley	15
Warwickshire	10
West Mercia	36
West Midlands	185
West Yorkshire	110
Wiltshire	29
Dyfed-Powys	12
Gwent	18
North Wales	41
South Wales	11
Total	2,966

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] The penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme was implemented in all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.
[3] Centrally available PND data are published at age 16 and over.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice
Ref: IOS 174-10

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged between (i) 10 and 12, (ii) 13 and 16 and (iii) 17 and 18 years in each HM Court Service area were (A) proceeded against, (B) found guilty and (C) sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol-related offences in 2008. [324160]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office cannot provide statistical information at an individual court level as this data along with offence details, gender and age information could potentially lead to the identification of an individual. Information showing the number of males and females prosecuted at magistrates courts, convicted at all courts and those sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol related offences, England and Wales 2008 (latest available) broken down by police force area, can be viewed in Table 1 and Table 2.

A penalty notice for disorder (PND) may also be issued for certain alcohol-related offences. The number of PNDs issued for alcohol-related offences 2008 can be viewed in Table 3.

Table 1: Number of males prosecuted at the magistrates court, convicted at all courts and those sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol related offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Aged 10-12			Aged 13-16			Aged 17-18		
	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	16	15	—	95	88	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	6	6	—	35	33	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	3	3	—	27	25	1
Cheshire	1	1	—	22	21	—	88	87	1
Cleveland	—	—	—	26	23	—	75	72	1
Cumbria	—	—	—	31	28	—	82	79	1
Derbyshire	1	1	—	17	17	—	80	76	1
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	49	45	—	162	155	1
Dorset	—	—	—	14	12	—	60	57	—
Durham	—	—	—	42	37	—	83	78	—
Essex	—	—	—	11	10	—	79	73	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	7	7	—	39	36	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	43	42	—	170	166	1
Hampshire	—	—	—	19	19	—	152	146	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	5	5	—	43	42	1
Humberside	—	—	—	13	12	—	30	30	3
Kent	—	—	—	31	30	—	109	100	1
Lancashire	—	—	—	88	82	—	213	193	2
Leicestershire	—	—	—	11	10	—	43	37	1
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	10	10	—	54	47	—
London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	—	49	41	—	137	124	—
Metropolitan Police	—	—	—	30	26	—	174	163	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	9	8	—	56	55	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	7	5	—	27	26	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	202	177	—	451	407	1
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	23	22	—	83	80	2
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	15	13	—	61	60	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	48	42	—	120	106	1
Staffordshire	—	—	—	18	15	—	77	75	1
Suffolk	—	—	—	3	3	—	34	34	—
Surrey	—	—	—	4	4	—	43	41	—
Sussex	—	—	—	23	22	—	126	117	2
Thames Valley	—	—	—	19	16	—	91	85	1

Table 1: Number of males prosecuted at the magistrates court, convicted at all courts and those sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol related offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Aged 10-12			Aged 13-16			Aged 17-18		
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced to immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced to immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced to immediate custody*
Warwickshire	—	—	—	6	6	—	35	35	1
West Mercia	—	—	—	24	21	—	101	97	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	28	23	—	150	139	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	75	60	—	174	153	1
Wiltshire	—	—	—	8	8	—	19	17	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	6	5	—	40	38	—
Gwent	—	—	—	18	15	—	71	65	1
North Wales	—	—	—	16	15	—	83	79	1
South Wales	—	—	—	8	7	—	82	79	2
England and Wales	2	2	—	1,103	988	—	3,954	3,695	29

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Alcohol-related offences for which cautions have been issued;
(a) Drunkenness simple.
(b) Drunkenness with aggravation.
(c) Offences by licensed person.
(d) Other offences against intoxicating liquor laws.
(e) Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs.
(f) Causing death by careless driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of females prosecuted at the magistrates court, convicted at all courts and those sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol related offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Aged 10-12			Aged 13-16			Aged 17-18		
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced to immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced to immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced to immediate custody*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	4	4	—	16	15	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	3	2	—	4	4	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—
Cheshire	—	—	—	5	5	—	23	23	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	10	10	—	8	7	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	13	12	—	22	18	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	9	8	—	11	10	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	19	18	—	27	27	—
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—
Durham	—	—	—	11	10	—	16	16	—
Essex	—	—	—	5	4	—	16	15	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	1	1	—	4	4	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	7	6	—	24	23	—
Hampshire	—	—	—	12	12	—	24	24	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	1	1	—	10	9	—
Humberside	—	—	—	2	1	—	6	5	—
Kent	—	—	—	14	14	—	15	14	—
Lancashire	1	1	—	30	23	—	58	51	—
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—
London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	—	18	15	—	29	24	—
Metropolitan Police	—	—	—	3	3	—	33	32	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	3	1	—	6	5	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	122	110	—	86	82	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	7	7	—	18	18	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	3	3	—	15	15	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	20	16	—	22	21	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	3	3	—	12	10	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Surrey	—	—	—	3	2	—	11	11	—
Sussex	—	—	—	7	5	—	16	14	—

Table 2: Number of females prosecuted at the magistrates court, convicted at all courts and those sentenced to immediate custody for alcohol related offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Aged 10-12			Aged 13-16			Aged 17-18		
	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Sentenced to immediate custody
Thames Valley	—	—	—	1	1	—	23	20	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	2	2	—	3	3	—
West Mercia	—	—	—	5	4	—	12	11	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	11	9	—	30	28	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	33	27	—	32	27	1
Wiltshire	—	—	—	1	1	—	7	6	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	4	—
Gwent	—	—	—	4	4	—	14	12	—
North Wales	—	—	—	3	3	—	15	14	—
South Wales	—	—	—	5	4	—	16	15	—
England and Wales	1	1	—	400	351	—	713	660	1

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Alcohol-related offences for which cautions have been issued;
(a) Drunkenness simple.
(b) Drunkenness with aggravation.
(c) Offences by licensed person.
(d) Other offences against intoxicating liquor laws.
(e) Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs.
(f) Causing death by careless driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Table 3: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and aged 17 to 18 for alcohol related offences, England and Wales 2008[1, 2, 3]

	Aged 16		Aged 17-18	
Police force area	Male	Female	Male	Female
Avon and Somerset	9	1	50	14
Bedfordshire	4	—	17	2
British Transport police	2	2	46	13
Cambridgeshire	6	—	38	3
Cheshire	1	1	68	12
Cleveland	19	7	155	54
Cumbria	—	—	37	12
Derbyshire	20	3	103	34
Devon and Cornwall	6	2	128	28
Dorset	3	1	39	11
Durham	9	3	118	14
Essex	1	2	31	5
Gloucestershire	—	3	19	1
Greater Manchester	16	7	123	37
Hampshire	6	1	105	27
Hertfordshire	14	2	65	11
Humberside	24	7	109	21
Kent	25	12	228	51
Lancashire	140	44	651	154
Leicestershire	—	—	24	8
Lincolnshire	3	1	16	4
London, City of	—	—	1	—
Merseyside	98	44	498	119
Metropolitan	17	7	219	46
Norfolk	2	2	49	1
North Yorkshire	20	4	118	23
Northamptonshire	11	5	54	8
Northumbria	34	13	517	155
Nottinghamshire	8	4	69	17
South Yorkshire	46	12	398	78
Staffordshire	7	3	77	15
Suffolk	2	—	13	1
Surrey	4	1	18	10
Sussex	3	3	132	25
Thames Valley	4	1	59	19
Warwickshire	—	—	19	3
West Mercia	4	—	86	14
West Midlands	46	9	366	78
West Yorkshire	14	6	202	53
Wiltshire	14	—	51	14
Dyfed Powys	1	—	22	7
Gwent	2	—	51	9
North Wales	7	1	98	17
South Wales	0	1	35	4
England and Wales	652	215	5,322	1,232

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] The penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme was implemented in all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.
[3] Data are published at Age 16 and over.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued to people aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* 18 or more years old in (i) England and (ii) Cambridgeshire in each of the last 10 years. [324753]

Mr. Hanson: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available to courts from April 1999. The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in England and the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice System area covering the period to 31 December 2007 (latest currently available) are shown in the table.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued all courts[1] in England and the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice System (CJS) area, by age group[2], 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2007

	Area					
	England			Cambridgeshire CJS area		
	10-17	18+	N/k	10-17	18+	N/k
April 1999-May 2000	—	—	104	—	—	5
June-December 2000	61	63	11	—	1	—
2001	190	148	6	1	1	—
2002	244	165	6	2	—	—
2003	598	679	8	10	5	—
2004	1,291	2,013	52	3	23	—
2005	1,493	2,344	70	14	34	2
2006	971	1,509	27	15	16	—
2007	869	1,250	17	4	16	—

[1] Includes ASBOs issued on application by magistrates courts acting in their civil capacity and county courts, which became available on 1 April 1999 and ASBOs made following conviction for a relevant criminal offence at the Crown court and at magistrates courts (acting in their criminal capacity), which became available on 2 December 2002.

[2] No age details are available for the period April 1999 to May 2000. N/k indicates that the defendant's ages were not reported to the Ministry of Justice.

Notes:

1. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
2. Previously issued data have been revised.

Asylum

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding applications for asylum were received by the UK Border Agency before 1 March 2009. [324517]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency have interpreted the question as asking for the number of asylum applications which were made before 1 March 2009 and which have been neither granted, withdrawn, are successful at appeal or removed. This would include applications made both to the New Asylum model (NAM) and cases within the CRD legacy.

The number of outstanding asylum applications which were made since the introduction of the new Asylum model (NAM) in 2006 and prior to 1 March 2009 is contained in the following table:

	Number of asylum applications[1]	*Number of cases yet to reach conclusion[2]*
2006	23,610	—
2007	23,430	—
2008	24,700	—
2009	24,250	—
Total	95,990	40,640

[1] Numbers for Asylum Applications are from migration statistics published stats.

[2] Please note that figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. This figure is the total number of unconcluded out of service standard cases. Cases within a six month period are considered in standard and therefore considered as work in progress, they are not considered to be outstanding applications.

The above figure (40,640) does not include cases being dealt with by the Case Resolution Directorate (CRD)[1].

[1] This is because the Agency is unable to accurately report on these outstanding cases. As reported in February 2010 to the Home Affairs Select Committee, 52 per cent. of the concluded cases were data errors and required no further action. Therefore, any such report would be unable to accurately represent CRD cases with outstanding applications.

Counter-terrorism

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which non-governmental organisations have received funding under the Prevent strand of the Contest counter-terrorism strategy to date. [318270]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* The Government fund a range of groups, including non-governmental organisations, under the Prevent strategy.

The disclosure of specific or detailed information on which organisations and individuals are actively engaged in delivering the Prevent strategy could place them at considerable and unnecessary risk of harm, and would also threaten national security. I am, therefore, unable to provide specific details.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he plans to take to evaluate the effectiveness of his Department's Prevent programme; and if he will make a statement. [318539]

Mr. Hanson: The effectiveness of the Prevent strategy, which forms part of Contest, the Government's counter-terrorist strategy, is already under continuous review and evaluation. Key deliverables are routinely assessed in order to monitor progress against the strategy, the delivery of benefits and demonstrate value for money.

Additionally, the effectiveness of the Prevent strategy is measured by NI

35: Building resilience to violent extremism and PSA Delivery Agreement

26: Reduce the risk to the UK and its interests.

As the Prevent strategy develops and progresses, we continue to develop further methods of evaluation.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the data collected on individuals through the Channel Project for identifying those vulnerable to violent extremism are shared with the security services. [322928]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* It has been the established policy of successive Governments to neither confirm nor deny in response to questions concerning the intelligence and security agencies.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place for individuals identified by the Channel Project to seek to have their details removed from police force records. [322929]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* Under the Data Protection Act 1998 the Chief Constables of each police force are the Data Controllers of all information placed by that force on to local force systems. Only they can authorise the amendment or deletion of any record.

Through the Data Protection Act a person may apply to the police, for disclosure of and disposal of any personal information held. The police should then make a decision regarding disclosure and disposal, on a case by case basis, under the terms of the Act.

The management and use of information within the police service is done in accordance with Management of Police Information (MOPI) 2006 guidance. This sets standards for the review and retention of information and the disposal of information if it is no longer considered necessary for police purposes.

The Code of Practice on the Management of Police Information (MOPI) defines policing purposes as: protecting life and property, preserving order, preventing the commission of offences, bringing offenders to justice and any duty or responsibility of the police arising from common or statute law.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been allocated for expenditure on advertising in respect of the anti-terrorist hotline in the financial year 2009-10; what payments his Department has made to each media outlet in respect of such advertisement; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such advertisement in meeting the objectives set for it; and if he will make a statement. [324025]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 24 March 2010]:* The total cost of advertising for the anti-terrorist hotline in 2009-10 was £1,005,587. A breakdown by media outlet is provided in the following table:

Media outlet	*Payments made in 2009-10 (£)*
National press	299,630
London radio	170,876
National radio	159,175
TalkSPORT	100,090
Women's magazines	96,648
Door drops	72,713
Minority press	38,361
Wales press	24,442
Welsh radio	15,981
London press	13,664
Social media	10,245
Taxi trade press	3,762
Total	1,005,587

Assessment of the 2009-10 advertising campaign will commence in April 2010. However, the police value the hotline—which is continually manned 24 hours each day by specialist counter-terrorism officers—as it provides the public with a facility through which they can confidentially provide information about suspected terrorist activity which could help to prevent a terrorist attack.

Crime: Nature Conservation

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings officials of his Department have had with the *(a)* Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime and *(b)* UK National Wildlife Crime Unit on reducing the number of illegal badger killings in the last 24 months. [324613]

Mr. Hanson: Officials from the Home Office have attended the steering group meetings of the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime which occur three times a year. Officials have also attended the tasking and co-ordination meetings for the National Wildlife Crime Unit which also occur three times a year.

We have not held separate meetings with either the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime or the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit to discuss illegal badger killings in the last 24 months.

Crime: South Yorkshire

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many serious crimes of each category have been recorded in *(a)* Sheffield and *(b)* South Yorkshire in each year since 1998. [324964]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not use the term 'serious crime'. Data are provided for the following offence categories: violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery. Data for South Yorkshire police force area are shown in Tables 1a to 1c from 1998-99 to 2008-09. Data for Sheffield Community Safety Partnership (CSP) are shown in Tables 2a to 2c. For CSPs (formerly known as CDRPs or Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships) data are available centrally from 2001-02 onwards. These tables have been placed in the Library.

There was a major change in police recorded crime recording practices in April 2002 that means that figures from 2002-03 are not comparable with figures prior to that year.

The introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002 brought in a more victim-focused reporting system, where victim accounts had to be accepted unless there was credible evidence to the contrary. In its first year, this was estimated to have artificially increased recording of violence against the person by 23 per cent.

From 1 April 2008 there were also changes in offence classifications which for the first time collected separate information on grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent (rather than as part of a broader 'other wounding' category) and a clarification in the counting rules for grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent. This led to a step change in the levels of most serious violence for some police forces. This means figures for these offence categories for 2008-09 are not comparable with those for earlier years.

Departmental Internet

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms he plans to put in place to monitor and ensure compliance with the requirement that any electronic service provider tendering for Government contracts should deploy the list compiled by the Internet Watch Foundation in order to block access to websites known to host images of child sex abuse. [324130]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* The Home Department's Commercial Directorate has worked with the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) to change the conditions under which contracts for internet services to Government Departments or Government Agencies were offered.

OGC has recently issued procurement policy which requires all procurement specifications for the provision of internet related services to include a requirement that the service provider must block access to those sites specified on the Internet Watch Foundation's (IWF) list.

The policy will be circulated to the Home Department's procurement community to promote this policy.

The main Home Department contract for IT services uses the IWF list to restrict access to the sites in question. As part of our contract management procedures this will continue to be monitored during the lifetime of the contract.

As part of our commercial best practice we will monitor all procurement specifications for the provision of internet related services to ensure compliance with this requirement.

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department's contract with Cable and Wireless for the provision of internet services expires; when he expects the tendering process for its replacement to begin; and what discussions he plans to have with *(a)* Cable and Wireless and *(b)* subsequent providers on access to sites identified with child abuse. [324269]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* The Home Office currently has the ability to access the internet via its service contract with Cable and Wireless under the Government Secure Intranet (GSi) framework via Buying Solutions. This framework expires in August 2011 with individual service contracts expiring no later than February 2012.

It should be noted that the GSi is not the only or exclusive method by which the Home Office, or indeed any Government Department, can gain access to the internet.

The tendering process for the replacement framework is already under way, beginning in December 2009 and targeted for delivery spring 2011.

The replacement frameworks will require internet service providers to offer filtering facilities to block access to specific sites.

We have been working with the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) to change the conditions under which contracts for internet services to Government or Government agencies were offered. It is now a requirement that all suppliers block access to those sites specified on the IWF's list. This will apply to all new contracts offered for supply of these services, and we would strongly urge all suppliers, or those wishing to become suppliers, to ensure that they take the IWF list.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2010, *Official Report,* column 81W, on departmental training, on what dates the sessions of media training were provided; which organisations provided that training; what the cost was of that training; and to which Ministers that training was provided. [315801]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* Ministers of the Home Department engaged in the following media training:

Liam Byrne on 23 January 2007 with Kim Fletcher;

Meg Hillier on 11 July 2007 with Angela Coles;

Alan Campbell on 17 October 2008 with internal training providers.

Information on costs relating to media training by external suppliers is not held centrally.

Designated Public Places Orders

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been given to local authorities on the extent of geographical areas to which a Designated Public Places Order can be applied. [324484]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office published Guidance on Designated Public Place Orders (DPPO): For local authorities in England and Wales on 23 December 2008. This guidance can be accessed on the following website:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/alcoholorders/alcoholorders016.htm

DNA: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his contribution on Second Reading of the Crime and Security Bill, 18 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 35, if he will provide detailed information on each of the 36 cases of DNA data being held on the National DNA database for those previously arrested but not convicted of an offence in which DNA evidence was vital in securing a conviction in cases of *(a)* rape, *(b)* murder and *(c)* manslaughter. [318422]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 24 February 2010]:* The information given on Second Reading of the Crime and Security Bill was the outcome of an analysis by the Association of Chief Police Officers' Criminal Records Office (ACRO) and the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) of information held on the police national computer, following consultation with the Senior Investigating Officers in each of the 36 cases referred to. In 2008-09 there were at least 79 DNA matches for rape, murder and manslaughter where the original sample was taken for an offence that did not result in a conviction. 36 of these matches were found to have a direct and

specific value to the investigation. It is not our policy to release details of individual cases without the explicit consent of the victims or their families. In any case, some of the cases remain before the courts.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any assessment has been made of the frequency of *(a)* arson in and *(b)* theft of household wheeled refuse containers. [324726]

Mr. Hanson: Figures from the 2008-09 British Crime Survey show that in 4 per cent. of incidents of other household theft a wheelie bin/dustbin was reported as the item stolen. Information is not available for arson offences.

From the information collected centrally on police recorded crime it is not possible to determine offences involving household wheeled refuse containers.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will grant a temporary domestic worker visa to Ms Abieyuwa Omorogbe, with reference to the letter on the subject sent by the hon. Member for Totnes to the Minister for Borders and Immigration on 24 March 2010. [325044]

Mr. Woolas: We have no record of a current visa application from Ms Abieyuwa Omorogbe. Any application received will be considered in accordance with the Immigration Rules, and in the light of any representations from the hon. Member for Totnes.

Entry Clearances: Domestic Service

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer by the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Totnes, of 17 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 875-6, when he expects the Minister for Borders and Immigration to contact the hon. Member for Totnes regarding the Minister's decision on diplomatic domestic worker visas. [324844]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* I will write to the hon. Member for Totnes.

European Prosecutor's Office

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what response he has made to the proposal of the President of Eurojust that a European Prosecutor's Office be established; and if he will make a statement. [324526]

Meg Hillier: [holding answer 29 March 2010]: There is no proposal to establish a European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPP).

While the Lisbon Treaty created a legal base for an EPP any proposal would have to be agreed by unanimity of all member states. The UK would also have the choice whether or not to participate by virtue of our Justice and Home Affairs Opt-In Protocol. So, under no circumstances could we be obliged to take part in the creation of an EPP if a proposal was made.

Extremist Websites

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the list of extremist websites, bookshops, networks, centres and organisations announced by the then Prime Minister on 5 August 2005 was first established; on what dates the list has been updated; whether the deportation of a foreign national has been *(a)* considered and *(b)* executed on the grounds of active engagement with one of the organisations on the list; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent edition of the list. [301377]

Alan Johnson: The Prime Minster's announcement on 5 August 2005 set out a 12-point plan designed to counter the threat of terrorism. As my right hon. Friend the former Home Secretary said on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1594W, significant progress had been made on the 12 point plan and that all counter-terrorist work was now subsumed into the Government's long-term counter-terrorist strategy (the Contest strategy).

The Home Secretary may make a deportation order where he is satisfied that deportation is conducive to the public good. The basis for such a decision could include, for example, the individual being engaged in the promotion or dissemination of extremist material (including via websites, bookshops, networks, centres and organisations). The police and other law enforcement and intelligence partners work closely to identify sources of extremism. Where an individual is found to have been engaged in the encouragement of terrorism or dissemination of terrorist publications, the police and CPS would seek to prosecute them. In the case of a foreign national engaged in extremist activities, we seek to deport them. In the case of organisations, the Terrorism Act 2000 allows an organisation to be proscribed if the Home Secretary believes it is concerned in terrorism. The Terrorism Act 2006 extended the meaning of "concerned in terrorism" to include the unlawful glorification of acts of terrorism.

I am not prepared to comment on individual cases of deportation. I can, however, confirm that individuals who are suspected to have engaged in extremist activity have been deported on grounds that their presence in the UK not being considered conducive to the public good. I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to him on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 474W, which provide the number of foreign nationals deported from the UK on the grounds of unacceptable behaviour (relating to foreign nationals who foment hatred or violence in support of their extremist beliefs).

The police and other counter-terrorism partners seek to identify extremist websites, bookshops, networks, centres and organisations. A list of proscribed organisations is available on the Home Office website at:

http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/terrorist-threat/proscribed-terrorist-orgs/proscribed-terrorist-groups/index.html

For national security reasons it is not possible to provide details of all such websites, premises or organisations of concern.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the victims of human trafficking who were returned to their country of origin in each of the last five years were *(a)* EU nationals, *(b)* European non-EU nationals and *(c)* from a country other than Europe; and what the cost to the public purse was in each of those years. [325032]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* Tracking victims of human trafficking beyond the National Referral Mechanism reflection and recovery period is limited if there is no longer a risk to their safety or health and they have the right to remain in the UK (UK and EEA victims in particular). This makes it difficult to confirm the numbers of voluntary returns in this category and what associated costs there have been. There is currently no record of any enforced return of individuals conclusively found to be victims of trafficking returned to their own country.

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions of people for human trafficking offences there were between *(a)* April 2009 and April 2010 and *(b)* April 2008 and April 2009. [325033]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* In the period 2008-09 there were a total of 124 prosecutions for human trafficking offences with a further 106 prosecutions in the period 2009-10.

In many cases where there is insufficient evidence to support a prosecution for human trafficking, there are successful prosecutions resulting in convictions for associated serious charges such as rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, managing a brothel or assisting unlawful immigration.

Identity Cards

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the Identity and Passport Service on upgrading the capability of identity cards; what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of that upgrade; and if he will make a statement. [323938]

Meg Hillier: I have regular discussions with the Identity and Passport service about developments in the National Identity Service (NIS). In relation to upgrading the capability of identity cards, our ideas are at the technical development stage and are being explored as part of the work to develop identity services. No final decisions with regard to these services have been taken and no final costs have therefore been identified.

Police: Bureaucracy

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what five types of activity, excluding front-line policing, accounted for most police officer time in each year since 1997. [319522]

Alan Johnson: Front-line policing was defined in Home Office Guidance on Statutory Performance Indicators for Policing 2007-08, to include the following activities which have been measured using policy activity analysis (AA): dealing with crime incidents; dealing with non-crime incidents; visible patrol; special operations/events; investigate complaints; deal with informants; and community involvement.

In each of the years between 2003-04 and 2007-08, the first three of these categories were consistently the activities on which the police spent most time. After the activities which comprise front-line policing, the same five activities took up the greatest proportions of police time over the same 2003-04 and 2007-08 period. They were, in descending order of time taken:

Non-incident-related paperwork

Briefings/meetings

Other non-incident-related work

Refreshments

Other managerial/supervision.

The amount of time spent annually on these activities in total over the period 2003-04 and 2007-08 was as follows:

2003-04: 26.9 per cent;

2004-05: 7.6 per cent;

2005-06: 26.9 per cent;

2006-07: 24.3 per cent;

2007-08: 25.6 per cent.

To reduce paperwork burdens on police officers, the collection of data about time spent by officers on police activities ceased after 2007-08 in response to the recommendations by Sir David Normington in his review of data burdens placed by the Government on the police service published in February 2009.

Table A: proportion of time spent on policing activities, by activity and year

Activity	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Violence against the person—S20 and more serious	3.2	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.3
Violence against the person—S47 and less serious	3.0	3.4	3.9	4.4	4.1
Sexual offences	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.2	2.3
Burglary dwelling	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.8	2.8
Burglary—commercial and other	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
Robbery	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.2
Theft of or from motor vehicle	2.2	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8
Deception/fraud	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.2
Theft other	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.4	3.4
Drugs offences	2.3	2.4	2.8	2.6	2.8
Criminal damage	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.2
Other crime	4.4	4.2	4.4	5.5	5.4
RTA fatal/serious	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1
RTA minor injury/ damage	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3
Traffic Other	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.7
Public disorder	1.8	1.9	2.1	1.6	2.0
Domestic dispute	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.2
Complaint/nuisance	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.0
Prostitution	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
False alarms	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Missing person	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.2
Sudden/suspicious death	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7

Table A: proportion of time spent on policing activities, by activity and year

Activity	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Other non crime	3.2	2.9	2.7	3.1	3.1
Visible Patrol	14.8	15.7	14.4	14.0	14.4
Court duties/escort	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5
Special operations/events	2.2	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.8
Investigate complaints	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Deal with informants	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Community Involvement	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3
Property enquiries	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Non incident enquiries	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5
Crime prevention activity	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Prison interviews	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Training	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.7
Briefings/meetings	6.9	6.6	6.4	5.9	6.5
Non incident linked paperwork	7.8	6.6	6.5	6.5	7.3
Other non incident related work	4.5	6.5	6.3	4.6	4.3
Staff development/ appraisal/personnel related	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8
Monitoring cellblock PACE (Domain 2)	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Relief custody duties (Domain 2)	0.5	0.6	1.2	1.1	0.4
Call handling/relief control room duties/ enquiry desk	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
Checking paperwork (supervisory)	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.8
Budgetary/financial	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
ID parades	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1
Other managerial/ supervision	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.3
Refreshments	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.2
Waiting time	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All crime	30.1	29.3	30.7	33.1	32.6
All non-crime incidents	15.1	15.2	15.3	16.0	15.6

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the proportion of police officer time spent *(a)* inside police stations and *(b)* on the street in each year since 1997. [319532]

Alan Johnson: No such estimate has been made centrally.

Police: Manpower

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 591W, on travelling people, if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance document on local employment targets for under-represented groups published by the Association of Police Authorities. [324530]

Mr. Hanson: I will arrange for a copy of the guidance to be placed in the Library.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 591W, on travelling people, what information his Department holds on those police forces which have adopted targets or policies to recruit Travellers. [324532]

Mr. Hanson: Following the Policing Green Paper: Cm 7448 "From the Neighbourhood to National: Policing Our Communities Together", Police Authorities are now responsible for setting local employment targets in agreement with forces and in consultation with communities. The Home Office does not hold information on police forces which have adopted targets or policies to recruit Travellers.

Prisoner Escapes

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* escapes and *(b)* attempted escapes there have been from prisons in each year since 2007; and if he will make a statement. [325307]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The number of escapes from custody has been falling since 1995 when the current central recording system for this type of incident began; this is against the backdrop of an increasing prison population. Despite these successes in reducing escapes, work continues to identify and remove risks which could lead to escapes.

The following table shows the number of escapes and attempted escapes by year from April 2007. There have been no escapes of category A prisoners from prison since 1995.

Prisoners escaping from prison in England and Wales between 1 April 2007 and end of February 2010

	Escapes	Attempted escape
2007-08	4	60
2008-09	1	45
2009-10 (to end February 2010)	2	39

Notes:

1. All figures shown are for key performance indicator escapes recorded as part of the National Offender Management Service performance management system.
2. Attempted escapes include any attempt to breach the perimeter or incidents that are indicative of advanced planning for an escape or finds of equipment that could be used for an escape.
3. These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Benefit Fraud

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of investigations by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency concerned benefit fraud in the last 12 months; [324763]

(2) whether the Serious and Organised Crime Agency routinely investigates cases of benefit fraud convictions for links to organised criminal activity. [324764]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* The Serious Organised Crime Agency was set up to tackle serious organised crime and to reduce the harm it causes to the UK. SOCA's priorities are determined by the Home Secretary and set out in the SOCA Annual Plan. They include class A drugs, organised immigration crime and fraud as well as cross-cutting priorities such as firearms and criminal finances and profits.

SOCA's operational activity is aligned to the UK Control Strategy for Organised Crime. While SOCA has not led operational activity which primarily focuses on benefit fraud, in the last 12 months, instances of benefit fraud may be uncovered as part of a wider investigation.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many court orders the Child Support Agency has sought for the recovery of outstanding payments from non-resident parents in each of the last 10 years. [324689]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many court orders the Child Support Agency has sought for the recovery of outstanding payments from non-resident parents in each of the last 10 years. (324689)

The table below provides information on the number of liability orders granted in England, Wales and Scotland in each financial year from 2004/5 to 2009/10. Information prior to 2004 is unavailable as this was not recorded for management information purposes.

Number of liability orders granted in England, Wales and Scotland

Year	All	England and Wales	Scotland
April 2004 to March 2005	7,760	7,300	460
April 2005 to March 2006	11,245	10,465	780
April 2006 to March 2007	13,510	12,635	875
April 2007 to March 2008	17,755	16,580	1,175
April 2008 to March 2009	24,675	22,610	2,065
April 2009 to October 2009[1] (latest available information)	14,130	13,290	840

[1] Figures for 2009/10 are only available until October 2009.

Notes:

1. The term court order is defined as a liability order.
2. A liability order is a document obtained from the court showing that they legally recognise that the debt is owing. This is the same in both England and Wales and Scotland. This is required before the CSA can use litigation powers (Diligence in Scotland).
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

The tables below show other Enforcement Actions, some of which include court action, that have been taken in England, Wales and Scotland in each financial year from 2004/5 to 2009/10. Information prior to 2004 is unavailable as this was not recorded for management information purposes.

England and Wales

	April 2004 to March 2005	April 2005 to March 2006	April 2006 to March 2007	April 2007 to March 2008	April 2008 to March 2009	April 2009 to October 2009[1]
Distress Actions	4,765	9,225	13,625	14,765	18,380	9,325
Judgement Orders	1,315	2,330	1,920	1,390	435	25
3rd Party Debt Orders	1,235	1,710	2,090	1,790	2,395	860
Charging Orders	845	1335	1,850	1,735	2,480	1,615

[1] Latest available information

Scotland

	April 2004 to March 2005	April 2005 to March 2006	April 2006 to March 2007	April 2007 to March 2008	April 2008 to March 2009	April 2009 to October 2009[1]
Attachments	120	125	275	235	270	140
Arrestments	475	450	610	485	890	345
Bills of inhibition	250	575	860	1045	1,745	580

[1] Latest available information

England, Wales and Scotland

	April 2004 to March 2005	April 2005 to March 2006	April 2006 to March 2007	April 2007 to March 2008	April 2008 to March 2009	April 2009 to October 2009[1]
New Deductions from Earnings Orders/Requests	n/a	75,760	64,915 (E)	74,550	66,705	38,195
Stock of DEO/R's charging at end of period	127,200	138,300	143,800	153,900	148,400	143,900
DEO/R compliance at end of period (percentage)	78	78	77	76	78	80
Suspended Committal sentences	225	390	420	480	580	440
Committal Sentences	5	15	40	25	45	20
Suspended driving licence disqualification sentences	25	35	30	15	45	35

England, Wales and Scotland

	April 2004 to March 2005	April 2005 to March 2006	April 2006 to March 2007	April 2007 to March 2008	April 2008 to March 2009	April 2009 to October 2009[1]
Driving licence disqualification sentences	5	5	5	5	5	5
Prosecution for non-disclosure of information	—	—	—	—	[2]1,390	955

[1] Latest available information
[2] Prosecutions for non-disclosure of information only available from October 2008

Notes:
1. Distress actions refer to bailiff actions in England & Wales. This is where, once the debt has been legally recognised, the agency has passed the debt to a bailiff company for collection (or equivalent).
2. Judgement orders apply only to England and Wales. This registers the person with a County Court Judgement Order, which remains on their credit record for six years.
3. Third Party Debt orders in England and Wales instruct a third party to pay any funds owed to, or held on behalf of, the non-resident parent to the agency instead. In practice this is typically used for banks and building societies.
4. Charging orders in England and Wales are where a County Court Order for the legally recognised debt is attached to the equity in the non-resident parent's property.
5. Attachments refer to actions taken by Sheriff Officers in Scotland on the agency's instruction to attach certain goods and remove for auction if the debt is not settled.
6. Arrestments refer to actions taken by Sheriff Officers in Scotland on the agency's instruction to serve an arrestment on a third party holding funds owed to, or held on behalf of, the non-resident parent to pay to the agency instead. In practice this is typically used for banks and building societies.
7. Bills of Inhibition in Scotland do not attach directly to the non-resident parent's property, but are a personal prohibition preventing heritable property being transferred, alienated or disposed of by the non-resident parent.
8. The number of new Deduction from Earnings Order/Requests showed a marked increase in January 2007. This was due to a fix on the CS2 system in December 2006 to suspend 8,500 ineffective Deduction from Earnings Orders on cases where employers had informed the agency that the non-resident parent on that case was no longer in their employment. Many of these were reinstated as Deduction from Earnings Order/Requests in January 2007 resulting in a large increase that is in effect not real. In order to allow more consistent comparisons, figures for January 2007 have been removed and therefore figures for April 2006 to March 2007 and August 2006 to July 2007 are underestimated by around 6,000 requests.
9. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Council Tax Benefits

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many council tax benefit recipients there were in *(a)* each local authority area in the East of England and *(b)* England in each of the last 10 years. [325157]

Helen Goodman: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Council Tax Benefits and Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average weekly payment of *(a)* council tax benefit and *(b)* housing benefit was to a (i) private renter and (ii) social tenant in each year since 1997. [316251]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the tables.

Council tax benefit figures are not available by tenancy type.

Council tax benefit recipients average weekly amount: Great Britain

	Month	(£)
1997	May	7.30
1998	May	8.20
1999	May	8.80
2000	May	9.40
2001	May	10.10
2002	May	10.80
2003	May	12.13
2004	May	13.12
2005	May	13.58
2006	May	14.13
2007	May	14.62

Notes:
1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Average awards are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
Source:
Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system Quarterly 100 per cent. taken in August 2007

Council tax benefit recipients average weekly amount: November 2008 and October 2009: Great Britain

	Month	£
2008	December	15.10
2009	December	15.76

Notes:
1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Average awards are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Interagency SHBE data was extracted at November 2008.
4. October 2009 represents the latest data held.
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

All housing benefit recipients average weekly amounts by tenure May 1997 to May 2007: Great Britain

	Month	Social tenant (£)	Private tenant (£)
1997	May	38.90	57.95
1998	May	40.33	58.83
1999	May	42.64	60.11
2000	May	44.94	61.51
2001	May	47.97	64.36
2002	May	51.41	68.63
2003	May	52.11	71.53
2004	May	55.78	76.23
2005	May	58.70	81.71
2006	May	61.81	85.09
2007	May	65.38	88.91

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Average amounts are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Social tenants comprise Local authority and Registered Social Landlord (RSL) tenants.
4. Private tenants include regulated and deregulated tenants.
Source:
Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system aggregate quarterly 100 per cent. taken in May in each year shown.

Data for December 2008 and December 2009 are derived from the new Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) which is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems, whereas earlier years are derived from quarterly aggregate clerical returns. Figures from the two sources may not be directly comparable; the introduction of SHBE has improved the accuracy of HB/CTB statistics as it based on individual claimant records rather than summary statistics, has a higher completion rate from local authorities leading to less estimation of missing data, and is subject to more thorough quality assurance.

All housing benefit recipients average weekly amounts by tenure December 2008 and December 2009: Great Britain.

	Month	Social tenant (£)	Private tenant (£)
2008	December	68.61	100.96
2009	December	72.42	105.89

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Average awards are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
3. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns.
4. Inaugural SHBE data was extracted at November 2008.
5. October 2009 represents the latest data held.
6. Social tenants comprise Local authority and Registered Social Landlord (RSL) tenants.
7. Private tenants include regulated and deregulated tenants.
Source:
Single housing benefit extract 100 per cent. individual level data (SHBE).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on *(a)* council tax benefit and *(b)* housing benefit in 2008-09; how much her Department has spent on each benefit in 2009-10 to date; and how much she expects to be spent on each benefit in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [316340]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 8 February 2010]:* The information requested is in the following tables.

	£ million (cash)	
	Housing Benefit	Council Tax Benefit
2008-09 expenditure	16,756	4,129
2009-10 expenditure	17,344	4,284
2009-10 forecast	19,532	4,656
2010-11 forecast	20,776	4,959

	£ million (2010-11 prices)	
	Housing Benefit	Council Tax Benefit
2008-09 expenditure	17,432	4,295
2009-10 expenditure	17,734	4,381
2009-10 forecast	19,971	4,761
2010-11 forecast	20,776	4,959

Notes:
1. Figures are for expenditure by DWP through subsidies to local authorities in respect of payments of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit to claimants. They do not include benefit payments funded directly by local authorities, or subsidy paid by DWP to cover administration of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.
2. Figures for 2009-10 expenditure are for subsidy paid to local authorities up to and including February 2010.
Sources:
Local Authority and DWP financial data and 2010 Budget forecasts

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1097W, on departmental accountancy, if she will place in the Library a copy of each of the five written ministerial directions. [320776]

Jonathan Shaw: A copy of each of the Ministerial Directions will be placed in the Library. Parts of the Direction given on 15 September 1998 have been redacted in accordance with a confidentiality agreement reached at the time.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will issue guidance on her Department's policy on the relocation offshore of departmental jobs to companies bidding for contracts let by her Department. [324790]

Jim Knight: DWP does not have plans to relocate any of its departmental jobs offshore.

Bidders for departmental contracts may occasionally offer to move elements of their proposed delivery solutions offshore for value for money reasons. Any such proposals would be properly considered, on their individual merits, taking data security, our obligations to Public Contracts Regulations (2006), EU Procurement Directives and the WTO Government Procurement Agreements and best overall value to the UK taxpayer into account.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many data security incidents there were in her Department in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and what estimate she has made of the number of persons affected. [325294]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department published details of data security incidents which arose during 2008-09, including the numbers of individuals affected, in the annual resource account which was published on 21 August 2009. We will be publishing the information for the year 2009-10 in the next resource account. The information is currently being compiled and verified before it is laid before Parliament.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to her Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to her Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in real terms. [324804]

Jonathan Shaw: The cost of the press office for the 12 months from March 2009 to February 2010 is £2,499,577 providing media handling for the Department, Ministers, Jobcentre Plus and the Pensions, Carers and Disability Service.

This covers 50 members of staff who are based in London, across the English regions, Scotland and Wales. They provide a service to the Department and to journalists 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Department for Work and Pensions was created in 2001. Figures for 1996-97 are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints her Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [325187]

Jim Knight: We do not hold figures for the number of complaints received regarding difficulties operating the Department's website.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [325271]

Jim Knight: Over the last three years the Department has spent the following on external website design consultants:

	Website	*Cost (£000)*
2009	DWP Corporate	112
2008	Office for Disability Issues	98

There are no costs recorded for 2007.

The DWP Corporate website was redesigned as part of our response to the Sir David Varney transformational government recommendations that customer-facing content should move to Directgov and employer facing content to Business Link. We are currently working with Cabinet Office to conduct a survey that will act as a benchmark to measure customer satisfaction of the site.

The Office for Disability issues website was redesigned as part of improvement work using customer feedback and research. Formal accessibility audits are carried out every year to ensure the website continues meet customer needs.

All external contracts are tendered within agreed DWP contractual framework agreements.

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many grade 2 civil servants are employed in her Department. [325054]

Jonathan Shaw: Grade 2 as a description of staff level is no longer in general use. Senior civil servants in roles at a similar level to the former grade 2 are now referred to as being in Senior Civil Service Pay Band 3 and usually have the job title of Director-General.

The Department has 11 full time Senior Civil Service Pay Band 3s including two in DWP sponsored Non-Departmental Public Bodies; one in each of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and the Health and Safety Executive.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether young people taking part in the Young Person's Guarantee are to be allocated for *(a)* job searches and *(b)* job interviews whilst taking part in one of the full-time options mandated through the guarantee. [322167]

Jim Knight: Before a young person participates in the Young Person's Guarantee they will already have undergone an extensive period of supported job search and, where appropriate, will have received help with interviews for suitable job vacancies.

Young people participating in the Young Person's Guarantee will continue to receive help with job search and interviews:

As part of the in-work support given to Future Jobs Fund employees, employers are expected to provide training and support to help them move into permanent, sustained employment. From April, Jobcentre Plus will also contact FJF employees as they come towards the end of their job to provide information about jobs available in the local area. This support will complement the activities employers are undertaking to help young people in to sustained jobs.

Young people on other strands of the Young Person's Guarantee also receive tailored help with job search and interviews.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what programmes sponsored by her Department are designed to assist young people into employment in Leeds North-West constituency. [322703]

Jim Knight: Young people in the Leeds North-West constituency are able to access a wide package of measures that the Government have implemented to address youth unemployment. From day one of their claim Jobseekers can access provision that includes targeted group sessions in jobsearch techniques, access to Local Employment Partnership vacancies and access to additional financial support towards the costs associated with finding work. We have also quadrupled funding to the Rapid Response Service which provides advice and support to people facing redundancy.

Longer-term jobseekers who remain unemployed after six months can access provision that includes the Young Person's Guarantee, which offers the guarantee of a job, training or work experience to all long-term jobseekers aged 18-24, through the Future Jobs Fund (FJF), Routes into Work, Work Focused Training, the Community Task Force and provides access to help with self employment. To date, the Government have agreed to fund around 117,000 jobs through the FJF, and, while details of these jobs are not broken down to constituency level, we know that this total figure includes the creation of up to 734 FJF jobs by Leeds city council.

The Backing Young Britain Campaign brings together business and public and voluntary sectors to provide jobs, internships, apprenticeships and work experience to young people aged 16-24.

Eligible young people can also access a wide range of flexible Jobcentre Plus provision which is tailored to meet other needs, such as those with special needs due to a disability or who are lone parents.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals *(a)* are eligible for assistance under and *(b)* have participated in the Young Person's Guarantee scheme since its inception. [325251]

Jim Knight: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The latest available figures show that 117,400 young people (please note these are provisional figures for February 2010 and are subject to change) have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months or over, and all are eligible to access the wide range of provision available through the Young Person's Guarantee (YPG).

(b) Figures on the number of young people who have participated in the YPG are currently unavailable. We are planning to publish statistics on the YPG later this year possible, in line with the UK Statistical Authorities Code of Practice on official statistics.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the effects on expenditure on benefits of offshoring of jobs. [324962]

Jim Knight: No specific estimate of the effect of offshoring on benefit expenditure has been made.

Funeral Payments

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many funerals received funding from the Social Fund in each of the last three years; and what assessment her Department has made of trends in the cost of funerals. [324481]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the table.

Funeral payment awards made in Great Britain in each of the last three years

	Number
2006-07	41,000
2007-08	40,000
2008-09	41,000

Notes:
1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data; for example, it does not include claims which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.
2. Figures include awards made on re-consideration or appeal.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000

Source:
Annual reports by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund.

All aspects of the social fund are kept under review to ensure that they deliver relevant, timely and appropriate support to the right people. The Green Paper "Social Fund reform: debt, credit and low income households" was published on the 15 March 2010 and it includes some discussion of funeral payments. The consultation period began on 15 March 2010 and runs until 7 June 2010.

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many successful bidders for Future Jobs Fund funding have *(a)* reduced the number of jobs to be created from the number of the original bid and *(b)* withdrawn from the scheme; [323495]

(2) what change there has been in the number of jobs to be created by successful bidders for Future Jobs Fund funding compared to the number of jobs contained in those bidders' original bids. [323559]

Jim Knight: No successful bidders have withdrawn from the Future Jobs Fund.

The remaining information requested is not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Hewlett Packard

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what effect the recent industrial action by Hewlett Packard employees has had on the payment by her Department of benefits by girocheque. [325181]

Helen Goodman: The recent industrial action by Hewlett Packard employees has had no effect on the payment of DWP benefits by cheque (formerly girocheques).

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether service level agreements between Hewlett Packard Enterprise Services and her Department have been breached since 22 January 2010. [325182]

Jim Knight: There have been six minor breaches of the service level agreement with Hewlett Packard Enterprise Services since 22 January 2010. None of the breaches has affected the Department's service to its customers. The Department took appropriate action within the terms of the service level agreement.

Housing Benefit: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* Cambridgeshire are receiving local housing allowance. [325062]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the table

Housing benefit recipients—local housing allowance (LHA) tenants in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire; as at December 2009

	Number
City of Peterborough	3,520
Cambridgeshire	4,990

Notes:
1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Local housing allowance tenants may include a small number of non-LHA cases making a new claim since 7 April 2008. This will include recipients in caravan accommodation.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
5. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and December 2009 is the most recent available.
6. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full time, work more hours or earn more money.
7. Data from SHBE incorporates the local authority changes from 1 April 2009.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her policy is on compensation awarded to former coal miners diagnosed with work-related physical and mental medical conditions; and if she will make a statement. [325308]

Jonathan Shaw: Jobcentre Plus administers the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits (IIDB) scheme which provides non-contributory no fault benefits for disablement at work arising from an accident or one of over 70 prescribed diseases known to be a risk of occupation.

Miners may qualify for a payment if they have been disabled as a result of an accident or have one of the following diseases which have been specifically prescribed for diseases caused by work in the coal mining industry:

Prescribed Disease D12—chronic bronchitis and emphysema (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).

Prescribed Disease A14—osteoarthritis of the knee.

Prescribed Disease B4—ankylostomiasis—exposure to blood sucking parasites and hookworms.

Where appropriate, miners commonly claim for the following other diseases under the IIDB scheme, although these also cover other occupations:

Prescribed Disease A6—bursitis (commonly known by miners as 'beat knee').

Prescribed Disease A11—Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome, commonly known as vibration white finger.

Prescribed Disease D1—pneumoconiosis.

Prescribed Disease A10-occupational deafness.

Prescribed Disease D5—non-infective dermatitis.

There may also be entitlement to Reduced Earnings Allowance if the date of onset of the disease is before 1 October 1990.

Miners may also qualify under the Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 which makes lump sum payments to sufferers of certain dust related diseases.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus branches there were in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas in (i) England and (ii) Wales in each of the last 10 years. [323316]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus branches there were in (a) rural and (b) urban areas in (i) England and (ii) Wales in each of the last 10 years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I am only able to provide information on Jobcentre Plus offices since April 2002, when Jobcentre Plus was created by the merger of the former Employment Service and Benefits Agency. Our public facing network is designed to provide reasonable access to our services throughout England and Wales. Offices open to the public are not categorised as constituting part of an urban conurbation or being sited within a rural location.

Jobcentre Plus inherited around 1,500 offices from the merger of the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service in 2002. At the time of merger the two organisations had many offices which were geographically close to each other, often in the same street. We have modernised our Jobcentre network to improve customer service, rationalising our estate to provide excellent high street coverage and a single, integrated customer facing office, at the same time reducing cost to the tax payer. We remain the largest office network in Government with 741 modern Jobcentres. This high street presence is supported by 31 modern contact centres and 79 main benefit processing centres.

The great majority of our services (in common with most large, modern organisations) are now also delivered through the telephone and internet. For example, to give customers more convenient access, we have almost half a million vacancies on-line at any time (our website receives close to one million job searches every working day), and new claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone with some taken on-line. In order to make our services more accessible to customers we are providing a range of support through outreach, often delivering advisory and other support on partners' premises This has brought our customer facing services together in a more coherent and integrated network and I believe Jobcentre Plus is well-placed to respond to the full range of economic conditions.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Recruitment

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Jobcentre Plus spent on recruitment in 2008-09; and what proportion of staff costs such expenditure represented. [321361]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your questions asking how much Jobcentre Plus spent on recruitment in 2008-09; and what proportion of staff costs

such expenditure represented. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are a variety of activities that contribute to the cost of recruitment including the cost of training staff to undertake recruitment exercises; expenses such as travel and accommodation that may be incurred in attending interviews; the cost of hiring venues where required; publicity costs for recruitment campaigns; security and Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks; administration services provided by DWP Shared Service; the cost of Jobcentre Plus staff time spent on recruitment, for example sifting applications and the use of external recruitment providers where necessary. Additionally, we advertise all our vacancies through Jobcentre Plus as a matter of course.

These recruitment costs are not recorded separately within our financial systems so we cannot provide the amount spent on recruitment in Jobcentre Plus in 2008-09.

I hope this information is helpful.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged *(a)* under 25, *(b)* 25 to 50 and *(c)* over 50 years old (i) claimed jobseeker's allowance and (ii) were helped into employment by Jobcentre Plus in each Jobcentre Plus district in each month from January 2008. [323819]

Jim Knight: The available information on jobseeker's allowance claimants has been placed in the Library.

The Office for National Statistics also publishes voluntarily provided information on the numbers of people leaving jobseeker's allowance for employment on the Nomis website. As the provision of those data is voluntary, it does not have sufficient coverage to give the complete picture.

Jobseeker's Allowance: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average duration of jobseeker's allowance claim was in each local authority area in the East of England in each of the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* 10 years. [325158]

Helen Goodman: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Means-tested Benefits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many persons with a national insurance number who are *(a)* 21 or under and *(b)* over 21 years old claim all means-tested benefits. [319081]

Jim Knight: All claimants are required to have, or have applied for a national insurance number (NINO) when they claim benefits; however, possession of a NINO does not in and of itself confer any rights to benefits on its holder. The most recent available information is in the following tables.

Income support (IS) and income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA (IB)) claimants by age, Great Britain, August 2009

	All ages	Aged 21 years and under	Aged over 21 years
IS	1,955,330	145,310	1,810,010
JSA (IB)	1,055,700	262,000	793,700

Notes:
1. Figures for JSA (IB) have been uprated using 5 per cent. proportions against 100 per cent. WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures for IS are taken from 100 per cent. data and rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. JSA (IB) benefit type: The benefit type is defined as pay status at the case load date—this may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim.
5. JSA (IB) includes a small number of claimants with both contributory-based and income-based entitlement.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) Information Directorate, 100 per cent., 5 per cent. samples.

Employment and support allowance (income-based) claimants by age, Great Britain, August 2009

	All ages	Aged 21 years and under	Aged over 21 years
Number	190,380	29,840	160,540

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. ESA, income-based benefit type: The benefit type is defined as pay status at the case load date—this may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim.
5. Income-based ESA includes a small number of claimants with both contributory-based and income-based entitlement.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).

Pension credit claimants, Great Britain, August 2009

	Number
Total	2,737,290

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced minimum income guarantee (income support for people aged 60 or over). The vast majority of people who were previously in receipt of the minimum income guarantee transferred to pension credit in October 2003. These pension credit statistics are produced on a different basis to the early estimates. The latter are more timely but operational processing times mean that a number of claim commencements and terminations are not reflected in them.
3. This data represents all claimants as this benefit is not paid to anyone aged under 60.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).

Housing benefit and council tax benefit claimants by age, Great Britain, November 2009

	All ages	Aged 21 years and under	Aged over 21 years
Housing benefit	4,579,180	184,370	4,394,520
Council tax benefit	5,600,830	137,200	5,463,300

Notes:
1. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
4. Council tax benefit figures exclude any single adult rebate cases.
5. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and November 2009 is the most recent available.
6. There will be overlaps in data between housing benefit (HB) and council tax benefit (CTB) and between HB/CTB and the other benefits shown in the preceding tables.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households received assistance under the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme in each of the last 24 months. [316828]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 10 February 2010]:* Financial support for home owners who are having difficulty in meeting their mortgage payments is provided through the benefits system. Help is available towards the interest on mortgages (known as Support for Mortgage Interest) as part of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance and state pension credit.

The following table shows the number of households who have received assistance under the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme each quarter since February 2008. The information requested is not available on a monthly basis.

Income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and state pension credit claimants who are receiving assistance under the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme

	Total SMI population
February 2008	204,900
May 2008	202,200
August 2008	199,400
November 2008	197,400
February 2009	204,200
May 2009	215,400
August 2009	221,000

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures have been uprated using 5 per cent. proportions against 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study totals.
3. Employment and support allowance was introduced in October 2008. No estimate is available yet for the number of employment and support allowance (income-related) cases.
4. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources. In this case reliable data for mortgage interest support is not available from the 100 per cent. data so the 5 per cent. data has been used, the latest of which is August 2009.
5. Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced minimum income guarantee (income support for people aged 60 or over). The vast majority of people who were previously in receipt of the minimum income guarantee transferred to pension credit in October 2003. Residual minimum income guarantee cases are included in the income support figures.
6. Pension credit is claimed on a household basis and therefore the number of people that pension credit helps is the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are also claiming.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. Quarterly Statistical Enquiry Data, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the West Midlands have received assistance under the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme since its inception. [325049]

Helen Goodman: Financial support for homeowners who are having difficulty in meeting their mortgage payments is provided through the benefits system. Help is available towards the interest on mortgages (known as Support for Mortgage Interest) as part of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, and income-related employment and support allowance and state pension credit.

Support for Mortgage Interest was available through supplementary benefit which was replaced by income support in 1988. A complete series of quality assured data is not available before August 1997.

The available information is in the table:

Income support, income-based jobseekers allowance and state pension credit claimants who are receiving assistance under the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme in the west midlands

Quarter	*Total support for Mortgage Interest population in west midlands*
1997	
August	35,600
November	34,800
1998	
February	34,000
May	33,000
August	32,600
November	31,300
1999	
February	30,900
May	30,300
August	29,800
November	29,100
2000	
February	
May	27,700
August	27,800
November	27,300
2001	
February	27,500
May	27,000
August	26,700
November	26,300
2002	
February	25,400
May	25,300
August	25,800
November	25,300
2003	
February	25,100
May	25,000
August	24,000
November	23,100
2004	
February	23,000
May	23,700
August	23,500
November	24,000
2005	
February	23,800
May	23,700
August	23,600
November	23,100
2006	
February	22,700
May	22,400
August	22,600

Income support, income-based jobseekers allowance and state pension credit claimants who are receiving assistance under the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme in the west midlands

Quarter	Total support for Mortgage Interest population in west midlands
November	22,200
2007	
February	21,700
May	21,700
August	20,900
November	—
2008	
February	20,100
May	19,700
August	19,400
November	19,200
2009	
February	20,600
May	21,900
August	22,200

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures have been up-rated using 5 per cent. proportions against 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study totals.
3. The quarter November 2007 is unavailable.
4. The quarter February 2000 is unavailable.
5. Employment and support allowance was introduced in October 2008. No estimate is available yet for the number of employment and support allowance (income-related) cases.
6. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources. In this case reliable data for mortgage interest support are not available from the 100 per cent. data so the 5 per cent data have been used. The latest of which is August 2009.
7. Pension Credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced minimum income guarantee (income support for people aged 60 or over). The vast majority of people who were previously in receipt of the minimum income guarantee transferred to pension credit in October 2003. Residual minimum income guarantee cases are included in the income support figures.
8. Pension credit is claimed on a household basis and therefore the number of people that pension credit helps is the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are also claiming.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. Quarterly Statistical Enquiry Data, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

New Deal Schemes

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* young people, *(b)* long-term unemployed, *(c)* disabled people, *(d)* lone parents and *(e)* people in total living in York have been assisted into work by the New Deal programmes (i) since 1997 and (ii) in the last 12 months. [322123]

Jim Knight: The jobseeker support regime delivered by Jobcentre Plus has been very successful and the new deal programme has helped more than 2.2 million people into work since it was introduced in 1998.

The introduction of the Flexible New Deal will support the Government's aim of helping more people secure sustained employment through tailored, flexible help and support, particularly for those people who experience repeated cycles of unemployment. The Flexible New Deal will be available in most areas of the country by October 2010.

The available information can be found in the following tables:

New deal: Jobs (spells) in York parliamentary constituency

Number

	New deal for young people	New deal for lone parents	New deal for disabled people	Total
Total	1,680	1,780	300	3,760
1998	150	[1]—	[1]—	150
1999	220	100	[1]—	320
2000	190	120	[1]—	310
2001	170	140	[1]—	310
2002	130	170	10	310
2003	130	160	10	300
2004	130	200	20	350
2005	80	200	40	320
2006	110	120	70	300
2007	160	210	110	480
2008	100	230	40	370
2009	110	120	[2]—	230

New deal: Jobs (spells) in York parliamentary constituency

Number

	New deal for young people	New deal for lone parents	Total
Total since August 2008	160	200	360
August 2008	10	10	20
September 2008	10	30	40
October 2008	10	20	30
November 2008	10	20	30
December 2008	[1]—	10	10
January 2009	10	20	30
February 2009	10	10	20
March 2009	10	10	20
April 2009	10	20	30
May 2009	20	10	30
June 2009	20	10	30
July 2009	30	20	50
August 2009	10	10	20

[1] Nil or negligible.
[2] Not applicable.
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some disclosure control has been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. The latest new deal figures are starting to show the effects of the introduction of the new Jobseekers Regime and Flexible New Deal (JRFND). The scheme is being gradually implemented in phase 1 areas from April 2009 and in the remaining phase 2 districts from April 2010.
3. The calendar year of starting new deal. Latest data are to August 2009.
4. The new deal for young people pilots began in January 1998 and full national roll-out occurred in April 1998.
5. The new deal for lone parents was introduced in October 1998.
6. The new deal for disabled people was introduced in July 2001.
7. Data are not available for new deal for disabled people as it was phased out in the area from April 2008 and replaced by another Government initiative known as Provider led (PI) Pathways to Work. 8. Data for all long-term (12 month) unemployed people moving into work through the new deal are not available. Flows between benefit data and new deal statistical information are not available.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

New Deal Schemes: Chesterfield

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Chesterfield constituency have entered into work after participation in the New Deal programme since 1997. [318626]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* The jobseeker support regime delivered by Jobcentre Plus has been very successful and the New Deal programme has helped more than 2.2 million people into work since it was introduced in 1998.

The introduction of the Flexible New Deal will support the Government's aim of helping more people secure sustained employment through tailored, flexible help and support, particularly for those people who experience repeated cycles of unemployment. The Flexible New Deal will be available in most areas of the country by October 2010.

The following table sets out the numbers of people who have moved from the New Deal for Young People, the New Deal 25 Plus, the New Deal for Partners and New Deal for Lone Parents immediately into work. The latest data held are up to August 2009.

Numbers of people leaving New Deals for employment 1997 to August 2009: Chesterfield Westminster parliamentary constituency

	Total	Employment	Employment and benefits	Other
New Deal For Young People	4,930	1,940	160	2,830
New Deal 25+	2,620	750	60	1,810
New Deal For Partners[1]	40	10	10	20
New Deal For Lone Parents	2,440	1,030	210	1,190

[1] The measure used for New Deal for Partners is Leavers (Individuals) as spells are not available in these cases.

Notes:

Definitions and Conventions:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Westminster parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS Postcode Directory and customer's postcode.
3. Other includes: Benefits-Income Support, Benefits-Incapacity Benefit/ESA, Benefits-Other/Unknown benefits, Other known, and Off Benefits/ Unknown—"Other" categories include people who may have found a job, but have not notified Jobcentre Plus.
4. Information for leavers on New Deal for Disabled People and New Deal for 50+ is not available.
5. We do not require people leaving the New Deal programmes to record exactly where they leave to.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate Published

New Deal Schemes: Expenditure

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse of the New Deal programme has been in each year since its inception. [322175]

Jim Knight: The available information can be found in the following table.

Since 1998 the New Deal has led a major transformation in employment support for people in Britain. Together, the different New Deal programmes have helped around 2.25 million people into work.

Programme and administration expenditure on New Deal 1997 to 2003

Period	Yearly outturn for New Deal programmes (£ million)
1997-98	43
1998-99	314
1999-2000	535
2000-01	565
2001-02	629
2002-03	614

From 2002-03 onwards HM Treasury agreed to simplify reporting arrangements and only required the Department to report on total New Deal expenditure. As the Department was no longer required to manage administrative budgets for individual New Deals, managers were afforded extended flexibility in deploying the resources available to them. In addition to the programme expenditure, the figures in the following table therefore only include the direct staff costs of administering New Deal programmes (calculated on the basis of number full time equivalent staff delivering the programme) and are not directly comparable with the figures contained in the table above which include all administrative expenditure.

Expenditure on New Deal 2003-09

Period	Yearly outturn for New Deal programmes (£ million)
2003-04	559
2004-05	588
2005-06	512
2006-07	449
2007-08	515
2008-09[1]	446

[1] Forecast outturn as reported in Departmental Report 2009.

Notes:

1. Yearly outturn data includes programme and administrative expenditure but excludes the cost of AME training allowances.
2. The figures for 2002-03 include an estimate of administrative expenditure.
3. These figures are available in the Departmental Report 2009 which is available in the Library.

Source:

Department for Work Pensions, Employment Group Finance, Planning and Performance Division

The latest New Deal figures will be affected by the introduction of the new Jobseekers Regime and Flexible New Deal (gradual implementation started from April 2009).

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse of the New Deal 13 week programme was *(a)* in total and *(b)* per participant in the last 12 months; and how many people have participated in the programme in each year since its inception. [324951]

Jim Knight: The information requested is in the following tables. Data have been provided for new deal for young people options and new deal 25-plus intensive activity period, both of which have a 13-week minimum duration.

Cost of new deal 13-week programme in 2008-09

	Total spend (£)	Total starts (Number)	Unit cost (£)
New Deal for Young People Options	84,200,000	88,527	951
New Deal 25-plus Intensive Activity Period	85,100,000	60,350	1,410

Notes:

1. Total starts are not individuals; people may start on the options/intensive activity period more than once.
2. The options have a minimum duration of 13 weeks. Total starts include starts on opportunities of up to 52 weeks duration.
3. The employment option and subsidised employment are not included.
4. Figures have been provided for 2008-09 as this is the last complete financial year.
5. Figures provided are programme costs only and do not include the costs of administering or referring people on to these programmes by Jobcentre Plus staff, or any incidental expenses such as travel or child care.

Source:

DWP: Provider Level Management Information System.

New deal for young people, gateway start year on first option taken

Calendar year	All
1998	57,830
1999	89,150
2000	71,560
2001	55,390
2002	54,600
2003	52,280

New deal for young people, gateway start year on first option taken

Calendar year	All
2004	48,010
2005	43,500
2006	58,070
2007	68,440
2008	64,600
2009	80,810

Notes:
1. Definitions and conventions: Figures are displayed in thousands and rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Time series: calendar years.
3. The latest new deal for young people and new deal 25-plus figures are starting to show the effects of the introduction of the new jobseekers regime and flexible new deal (JRFND). The scheme is being gradually implemented in phase 1 areas from April 2009 and in the remaining phase 2 districts from April 2010.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

New deal 25-plus, gateway start year on first option taken

Calendar year	All
1998	5,630
1999	20,750
2000	18,330
2001	24,440
2002	44,830
2003	44,260
2004	37,130
2005	33,450
2006	37,280
2007	61,290
2008	65,170
2009	50,290

Notes:
1. Definitions and conventions: Figures are displayed in thousands and rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Time series: calendar years.
3. The latest new deal for young people and new deal 25-plus figures are starting to show the effects of the introduction of the new jobseekers regime and flexible new deal (JRFND). The scheme is being gradually implemented in phase 1 areas from April 2009 and in the remaining phase 2 districts from April 2010.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department has undertaken costings of the policies of the *(a)* Conservative Party and *(b)* Liberal Democrat party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months. [324240]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given today by my hon. Friend, the Exchequer Secretary (Sarah McCarthy-Fry).

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the number of pensioners in poverty in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands. [325083]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to him on 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 896-97W.

The Government use a basket of three key thresholds of income, after housing costs, to measure pensioner poverty. The most commonly used figures relate to those with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, after housing costs.

Estimates of poverty, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall numbers in poverty at Government Office Region level. Therefore, information is available for the West Midlands Government office region, but not available for the city of Coventry.

Three-year averages are used to report regional statistics as single-year estimates are subject to volatility. Figures are quoted to the nearest 100,000 and percentages are quoted to the nearest whole percentage point.

The latest information relates to the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 in which there were around 200,000 pensioners in poverty (18 per cent.) in the West Midlands Government office region.

Personal Income

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* children, *(b)* adults of working age and *(c)* pensioners were living in households with between 30 and 50 per cent. of median income in each year since 1997. [323481]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* Between 1998-99 and 2007-08 some 500,000 children were lifted out of relative poverty as measured using the EU standard definition based on 60 per cent. of median income. Measures announced in and since Budget 2007 are expected to lift around a further 550,000 children out of poverty. Absolute poverty has been halved.

Addressing pensioner poverty has been a priority for this Government. We have targeted help on the poorest pensioners, those who need it most, while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

We have made good progress in tackling pensioner poverty. Targeted support, such as pension credit and additional funding for all pensioners has contributed to 900,000 fewer pensioners in relative poverty (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs) in 2007-08 than in 1998-99.

For 1997-98 to 2001-02, only information for Great Britain is available. We have therefore presented information covering Great Britain only.

Information splitting groups with incomes below 50 per cent. of median income is not presented in the Households Below Average Income series as it is an unreliable measure of poverty. Such data for households with an income lower than 50 per cent. of median are not considered to be accurate as an indicator of living standards. These figures are not National Statistics and caution must be applied because those people stating the lowest incomes in the Family Resources Survey, (the underlying data source for the Households Below Average Income series) may not actually have the lowest living standards. Using a threshold of 60 per cent. of median income is in line with international best practice.

Poverty for working age adults is presented after housing costs. Child poverty is presented both before housing costs and after housing costs, and pensioner poverty is presented after housing costs, in line with the relevant public service agreements.

The most commonly used figures relate to those with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income for the three groups.

The information given in the following table should therefore be treated with caution.

The numbers of children, working-age adults and pensioners in households with incomes between 30 and 50 per cent. of contemporary median income, Great Britain 1997-98 to 2007-08

Million

	Children		Working-age adults	Pensioner
	BHC	AHC	AHC	AHC
1997-98	1.4	2.4	3.1	1.1
1998-99	1.4	2.4	3.2	1.1
1999-2000	1.3	2.3	3.1	1.0
2000-01	1.1	2.0	2.9	0.9
2001-02	1.1	1.9	2.8	0.9
2002-03	1.1	1.8	2.8	0.9
2003-04	1.0	1.7	2.8	0.8
2004-05	1.0	1.6	2.6	0.6
2005-06	1.0	1.7	3.0	0.6
2006-07	1.1	1.7	3.0	0.8
2007-08	1.1	1.8	3.1	0.8

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey. Both the Households Below Average Income series and the Family Resources Survey are available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development equivalisation factors.
6. The number working-age adults, pensioners and children have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand individuals.
7. Figures are only available covering the United Kingdom from 1998-99.
8. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
Households Below Average Income, DWP

Poverty: Children

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children have been living in poverty in the South West in each year since 1993. [315965]

Helen Goodman: Specific information regarding low income for the UK is available in 'Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2007-08'. This annual report, which is a National Statistics publication, includes the numbers and proportions of individuals, children, working age adults and pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent. 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median income, and the proportions in persistent poverty. For children, it also contains a measure of combined low income and material deprivation.

Estimates of poverty by region, published in the Households Below Average Income series, begin from 1994-95.

The number and proportion of children living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, on a before-housing-costs basis, are in the table.

Numbers and Proportion of children living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, Before Housing Costs, South West, 1994/95-1996/97 to 2005/06-2007/08

	Number of children (million)	Proportion of children (percentage)
1994/95-1996/97	0.2	21
1995/96-1997/98	0.2	21
1996/97-1998/99	0.2	23
1997/98-1999/2000	0.2	24
1998/99-2000/01	0.2	22
1999/00-2001/02	0.2	20
2000/01-2002/03	0.2	19
2001/02-2003/04	0.2	18
2002/03-2004/05	0.2	18
2003/04-2005/06	0.2	17
2004/05-2006/07	0.2	17
2005/06-2007/08	0.2	18

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey. Both of these documents are available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference periods for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years. Three sample years have been combined for regional statistics as single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development equivalisation factors.
6. Information for adults includes those above State Pension age.
7. Numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Source:
Households Below Average Income, DWP

Poverty: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children from an *(a)* Black Caribbean, *(b)* Black African, *(c)* Black other, *(d)* Indian, *(e)* Pakistani, *(f)* Bangladeshi, *(g)* other Asian, *(h)* Chinese, *(i)* other ethnic minority and *(j)* mixed race background resident in (i) the East Midlands, (ii) Leicester and (iii) England are living in severe poverty. [323489]

Helen Goodman: Between 1998-99 and 2007-08, some 500,000 children were lifted out of relative poverty as measured using the European Union standard definition based on 60 per cent. of median income. Measures announced in and since Budget 2007 are expected to lift around a further 550,000 children out of poverty. Absolute poverty has been halved.

Child poverty statistics, published in the households below average income series, only allow a breakdown at country level of the overall number of children in relative poverty by ethnic group. This means information for (i) East Midlands and (ii) Leicester is not available.

The ethnic groupings used in the table are the lowest level of breakdown available for the groups requested. This is because some of the groups asked for in the question have sample sizes which are too small to be reliable. Data are presented as three-year averages, due to variability in single-year estimates.

There is no official or agreed definition of severe poverty. The households below average income series presents a range of low-income thresholds (based on

50, 60 and 70 per cent. of median income). Figures for England looking at the number of children in households below 60 per cent. of median are given in the table. Statistics based on other thresholds are given in the Households Below Average Income publication, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Numbers of children living in Black Caribbean, Black Non-Caribbean, Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi, Chinese and other groups, and mixed race background households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income before housing costs, England, 2005-06 to 2007-08

Ethnic group	*Number of children (millions)*
Black Caribbean	[1]—
Black Non-Caribbean	0.1
Indian	0.1
Pakistani and Bangladeshi	0.3
Chinese and other groups	0.1
Mixed race background	[1]—

[1] Indicates less than 50,000 children.

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on households below average income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey. Both the households below average income series and the Family Resources Survey are available in the Library.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years. Three survey year averages are given for ethnic group statistics as single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. Household ethnic group has been classified according to the ethnic group of the household reference person. The household reference person is classified as the highest income householder without regard to gender. This is consistent with the households below average income publication.
5. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses net disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
6. For the households below average income series, incomes have been equivalised using organisation for economic co-operation and development equivalisation factors.
7. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand children.

Source:
Households Below Average Income, 2005-06 to 2007-08.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been *(a)* paid out and *(b)* recovered in benefits to dead people in each of the last 10 years. [324411]

Helen Goodman: Unfortunately, through no fault of any individual, overpayments of benefit can arise following the death of a benefit recipient. Such overpayments normally arise as a result of the Department being notified of the death too late to stop an automated payment being made into the deceased's account.

We are doing all we can to improve the current process. We now receive electronic notifications of death from the Office for National Statistics on a daily basis. This will assist in enabling a prompt cessation of payments following death and reduce such overpayments occurring.

As from early 2009 we have a system in place whereby registrars in England and Wales automatically inform the Department on a daily basis of deaths notified to them. The Scottish Registrar's Office now notifies us of deaths by daily e-mail; this will be fully automated as from October 2010.

The Department has a duty to seek recovery of all overpaid funds where it is reasonable and cost-effective to do so. However, we seek to do this as sensitively as possible, taking account of the fact that this will be a stressful time, particularly if the person contacted is a close friend or family member. Overpayments are written off if the deceased has no estate or there are insufficient funds in the estate.

The following table details how much was paid to, and recovered from, the deceased as from 2006-07. The systems on which this information is based were only introduced during 2005-06 and comprehensive information is only available from 2006-07.

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Paid out (£ million)	62.0	71.7	77.4
As a proportion of benefit expenditure (Percentage)	0.05	[1] 0.06	0.06
Recovered (£ million)	38.0	46.0	51.0

Source:
Management Information from the Shared Services Debt Manager via Business Objects computer system.

Social Security Benefits: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support and *(c)* incapacity benefit in North-West Cambridgeshire constituency in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [324755]

Helen Goodman: Unemployment in the UK at the end of 2009 was more than 450,000 lower than had been predicted at the time of the 2009 Budget.

The available information is in the following table.

Number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance (JSA), incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) and income support (IS) in North West Cambridgeshire, as at August in each of the last 10 years

As at August each year	*JSA*	*IB/SDA*	*IS*
2000	860	2,880	3,220
2001	770	3,020	3,300
2002	790	2,990	3,280
2003	810	3,080	3,280
2004	830	3,150	1,310
2005	980	3,230	1,270
2006	1,130	3,290	1,260
2007	1,110	3,370	1,310
2008	1,320	3,480	1,290
2009	2,500	3,110	1,390

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Benefits are arranged hierarchically and claimants are assigned to the topmost benefit which they receive.
3. JSA: Claimant of jobseeker's allowance.
4. IB/SDA: Claimant of either incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance.
5. Income Support: Claimants include lone parents and those not included in the IB/SDA figure.
6. Most existing minimum income guarantee cases (1.8 million) were migrated to pension credit when it was introduced in October 2003. Some residual cases remain.
7. This data does not include claimants of employment and support allowance introduced from October 2008.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of claims for *(a)* disability allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance were approved made under special rules in the latest period for which figures are available. [322179]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is provided in the table.

Great Britain new claims for attendance allowance and disability living allowance by special rules year to August 2009

Benefit	*Proportion of approved claims made under special rules (Percentage)*
Attendance Allowance	9.5
Disability Living Allowance	7.6

Notes:
1. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
2. An on-flow to disability living allowance or attendance allowance is defined as someone who is shown as in receipt of either benefit on a quarterly data extract but did not appear on the previous quarterly data extract. These yearly figures are the sum of four quarterly on-flows calculated on this basis. This means that anyone flowing on and off the benefit between data extract dates will not appear in the figures.
3. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of disability living allowance claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5 per cent. sample data, or disabling condition is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100 per cent. total for the benefit. These figures have been scaled up to the overall total.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample. Figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for attendance allowance made under special rules were approved in each of the last five years. [322181]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is provided in the table.

Attendance allowance new claim awards for special rules by Great Britain by year August 2005 to August 2009

	Awards
2009	28,200
2008	27,400
2007	29,200
2006	27,500
2005	28,100

Notes:
1. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
2. An on-flow to attendance allowance is defined as someone who is shown as in receipt of benefit on a quarterly data extract but did not appear on the previous quarterly data extract. These yearly figures are the sum of four quarterly on-flows calculated on this basis. This means that anyone flowing on and off the benefit between data extract dates will not appear in the figures. For the year to August 2008 the November 2007 data extract was unavailable for technical reasons. This means that on-flows for this year comprise on-flows from May 2008 to August 2008, from February 2008 to May 2008 and from August 2007 to February 2008.
3. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
4. Caution: The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of disability living allowance claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5 per cent. sample data, or disabling condition is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100 per cent. total for the benefit. These figures have been scaled up to the overall total.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample. Figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claims for incapacity benefit involved a request for medical information using an IB113 form between October 2007 and October 2008. [323426]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the table.

Total number of incapacity benefit referrals received by Atos Healthcare and the total number where an IB113 form was requested, October 2007 to October 2008

Month	*Incapacity benefit referrals*	*GP report requested*	*Percentage of referrals where a GP report was requested*
October 2007	157,450	19,731	13
November 2007	172,627	23,017	13
December 2007	93,527	12,643	14
January 2008	117,143	16,659	14
February 2008	106,102	13,406	13
March 2008	90,202	11,387	13
April 2008	107,539	14,363	13
May 2008	94,609	10,986	12
June 2008	102,460	11,990	12
July 2008	104,015	12,347	12
August 2008	84,417	10,244	12
September 2008	102,069	12,647	12
October 2008	107,211	14,588	14
Total	1,439,371	184,008	13

Source:
Atos Healthcare Management Information published to the Department for Work and Pensions.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claims for employment and support allowance involved a request for medical information using an ESA113 form in each month since October 2008. [323427]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is the table.

Total number of employment and support allowance medical referrals and the total number where an ESA113 form was requested—October 2008 to February 2010

	Employment and support allowance medical referrals	*Number of GP reports requested*	*Percentage of GP reports requested*
October 2008	191	0	0
November 2008	10,226	175	2
December 2008	26,453	743	3
January 2009	43,035	1,564	4
February 2009	48,149	2,374	5
March 2009	55,567	3,078	6
April 2009	52,244	2,832	5
May 2009	53,364	3,453	6
June 2009	58,016	4,029	7
July 2009	59,314	4,028	7
August 2009	57,661	3,623	6
September 2009	62,792	4,405	7
October 2009	61,813	4,465	7
November 2009	67,480	5,238	8
December 2009	54,794	4,871	9
January 2010	58,898	5,247	9
Total	62,770	5,163	8

Source:
Atos Healthcare Management Information published to the Department for Work and Pensions.

Unemployment Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been claiming *(a)* an out-of-work benefit and *(b)* a combination of different out-of-work benefits continuously since 1997. [306365]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The number of people claiming one of the key out-of-work benefits has fallen by over 350,000 since 1997.

The available information is in the following table.

Number claiming jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, or income support for 12 years and over, as at August 2009

	Number
Jobseeker	370
Incapacity benefits	661,190
All other income support	77,070

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Benefits are arranged hierarchically and claimants are assigned to the topmost benefit which they receive.
3. For this analysis the claim start date has been used.
4. Job seeker—claimant of job seeker's allowance.
5. Incapacity benefits—claimant of either incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance.
6. Income support—claimants of income support not included in the incapacity benefits figure.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Although this group of benefits are generally known as out-of-work benefits, income support and jobseeker's allowance claimants can work for up to 16 hours a week. Where appropriate, those on incapacity benefits can also do some work under the permitted work rules.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on out-of-work benefits, including council tax benefit and housing benefit paid to households claiming out-of-work benefits, in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area in (i) 1997, (ii) 2005 and (iii) the latest year for which figures are available. [324533]

Helen Goodman: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Information for housing benefit and council tax benefit paid to people claiming out of work benefits, at parliamentary constituency and local authority level, is not available.

Benefit expenditure outturn and forecast information, including breakdowns by parliamentary constituency and local authority, is available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

A copy of this information has been placed in the Library.

Figures for 2008-09 are in the process of being updated, and will shortly be published on the internet at the address above, and a copy placed in the Library.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of children were living in a household dependent on out-of-work benefits in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area in (i) 1997, (ii) 2005 and (iii) the latest year for which figures are available. [324839]

Helen Goodman: Between 1998-99 and 2007-08, some 500,000 children were lifted out of relative poverty as measured using the EU standard definition based on 60 per cent. of median income. Measures announced in and since Budget 2007 are expected to lift around a further 550,000 children out of poverty. Absolute poverty has been halved.

The information as requested is not available for 1997. The available information for 2005 and the latest year for which figures are available have been placed in the Library.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people of working age in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* constituency were claiming an out-of-work benefit in (i) 1997, (ii) 2005 and (iii) the latest year for which figures are available. [324841]

Helen Goodman: Unemployment in the UK at the end of 2009 was more than 450,000 lower than had been predicted at the time of the 2009 Budget.

The available information has been placed in the Library.

Welfare to Work: Standards

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's most recent monthly summary report on the performance of all welfare-to-work providers against agreed targets. [317617]

Jim Knight: A copy of the most recent report, which includes the cumulative performance of contracted provision up to the end of December 2009, has been placed in the Library, alongside an average monthly jobs graph.

DWP is looking at making contracted performance information available on a regular basis via the DWP Website.

The publishable version of the report has commercially sensitive and unaudited finance portions removed.

Winter Fuel Payments: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for winter fuel payments were made by households in *(a)* North-West Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire and *(c)* Peterborough in the latest period for which figures are available. [325156]

Angela Eagle: Information on winter fuel payment claims made by households in *(a)* North-West Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire and *(c)* Peterborough is not available.

For winter 2008-09, the latest year for which information is available, the following numbers of winter fuel payments were made to households:

	Number
North West Cambridgeshire	14,970
Cambridgeshire	86,570

	Number
Peterborough	13,500

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2.Local Authorities and Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent data.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to answer question *(a)* 302791, on the Social Security Advisory Committee, tabled on 25 November 2009, *(b)* 307546 on parliamentary questions, tabled on 10 December 2009, *(c)* 314731, on employment and support allowance, tabled on 27 January 2010, *(d)* 305047, on Jobcentre Plus, tabled on 28 January 2010, *(e)* 314936, on Jobcentre Plus, tabled on 28 January 2010, *(f)* 314935 on benefit delivery centres, tabled on 28 January 2010, *(g)* 314937 on Jobcentre Plus, tabled on 28 January 2010, *(h)* 315694, on skills training, tabled on 1 February 2010, *(i)* 315695, on benefit claimants moving into work, tabled on 1 February 2010, *(j)* 315718, on Pathways to Work, tabled on 1 February 2010, *(k)* 315717, on Pathways to Work, tabled on 1 February 2010, *(l)* 315720, on allowance claims appeals, tabled on 1 February 2010, *(m)* 315716, on Pathways to Work, tabled on 1 February 2010, *(n)* 316364, on fraud, tabled on 3 February 2010, *(o)* 316100, on user acceptance testing, tabled on 2 February 2010, *(p)* 316097, on claims outcome information, tabled on 2 February 2010, *(q)* 316365, on benefit fraud, tabled on 3 February 2010, *(r)* 316098, on known fraud debt stock, tabled on 2 February 2010, *(s)* 316401, on fraud and staff, tabled on 3 February 2010, *(t)* 316398, on benefit fraud, tabled on 3 February 2010, *(u)* 316402, on social security benefit and fraud, tabled on 3 February 2010, *(v)* 316400, on fraud and staff, tabled on 3 February 2010, *(w)* 316399, on benefits and prisoners, tabled on 3 February 2010, *(x)* 316765, on alcohol misuse, tabled on 5 February 2010, *(y)* 316779, on the Institute for Fiscal Studies, tabled on 5 February 2010, *(z)* 316778, on obesity, tabled on 5 February 2010, *(aa)* 316776, on cancer, tabled on 5 February 2010, *(bb)* 316775, on problem drug users, tabled on 5 February 2010 and *(cc)* 316777, on drug and alcohol dependency, tabled on 5 February 2010. [317708]

Jim Knight: I have replied to the hon. Member's questions as follows:

(a) 302791 on 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 78W;

(b) 307546 on 5 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1422W;

(c) 314731 on 1 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 32W;

(d) 305047 (315047) on 26 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 765W;

(e) 314936 on 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1104W;

(f) 314935 on 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1103W;

(g) 314937 on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 461W;

(h) 315694 on 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 579W;

(i) 315695 on 15 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 606W;

(j) 315718 on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1034W;

(k) 315717 on 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 98W;

(l) 315720 on 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 40W;

(m) 315716 on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 463W;

(n) 316364 on 5 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1421W;

(o) 316100 on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 461W;

(p) 316097 on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 459W;

(q) 316365 on 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 105W;

(r) 316098 on 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 806-07W;

(s) 316401 on 15 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 597-98W;

(t) 316398 on 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 807W;

(u) 316402 on 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1105W;

(v) 316400 on 15 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 597W;

(w) 316399 on 25 March 2010, Official Report, column 421W;

(x) 316765 on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1039W;

(y) 316779 on 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 727W;

(z) 316778 on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1042W;

(aa) 316776 on 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1315W;

(bb) 316775 on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1040W;

(cc) 316777 on 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 199-200W.

Young People: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the number of young people in Birmingham who have received assistance from the *(a)* Backing Young Britain and *(b)* Young Person's Guarantee programme. [325166]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of young people who have received assistance from Backing Young Britain is not currently available; we are currently considering publication of relevant statistics at a future date.

Information on starts on the various elements of the Young Person's Guarantee is not currently available but will be made available later this year through a statistical release. This is normal practice for the Department's employment programmes and allows time for the information to be collected, understood, verified and reported.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Berkshire

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been allocated to each school in *(a)* Reading East constituency and *(b)* Berkshire under the Building Schools for the Future Scheme; and when he expects each grant to be paid to the relevant local education authority. [324574]

Mr. Coaker: School capital allocations are allocated at local authority level and no central records are maintained which distinguish between parliamentary constituencies. None of the authorities in Berkshire, including Reading, have yet entered the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Therefore no BSF funding has been allocated to schools in these authorities. BSF projects are prioritised based on educational and social need and on a local authority's ability to provide robust evidence of their readiness to deliver. We are not yet able to say when the authorities will be invited to join

the programme. However, we are committed to seeing all local authorities enter the programme as soon as is practicable.

Children's Centres: South East

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start children's centres have been established *(a)* in each district council area in Hampshire and *(b)* in the Isle of Wight in each year since the inception of the programme. [322914]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* Table 1 details how many Sure Start children's centres have been established *(a)* in district councils in Hampshire and *(b)* the Isle of Wight in each year since the inception of the programme.

Sure Start children's centres established (designated) each year

Local authority	*Council*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Sub Total*	*Children's centres mergers*	*Total*
Hampshire	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	4	11	0	11
Hampshire	East Hampshire District Council	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	6	0	6
Hampshire	Eastleigh Borough Council	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	3	9	1	8
Hampshire	Fareham Borough Council	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	5	0	5
Hampshire	Gosport Borough Council	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	6	0	6
Hampshire	Hart District Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	7
Hampshire	Havant Borough Council	1	0	1	2	1	4	0	0	9	1	8
Hampshire	New Forest District Council	0	0	1	0	0	9	0	0	10	0	10
Hampshire	Rushmoor Borough Council	0	0	1	0	0	5	1	0	7	1	6
Hampshire	Test Valley Borough Council	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	6	0	6
Hampshire	Winchester City Council	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	4	8	0	8
Hampshire Total		1	1	4	5	3	46	4	20	84	3	81
Isle of Wight		0	1	3	1	3	0	1	—	9	1	8

Children's Centres: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start centres there are in Torbay constituency; and how many children are enrolled at such centres. [314611]

Dawn Primarolo: There are a total of four designated Sure Start Children's Centres in Torbay constituency reaching over 2,600 children under five and their families. Reach area defines those children and families with the opportunity to access children's centres. Figures for the number of children under five and their families actually attending and using children's centres are not collected centrally.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323465]

Mr. Coaker: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish the travel guidance issued to staff at each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies. [314931]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Copies of the Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) travel policy and guidance will be placed in the House Libraries in due course.

Education Maintenance Allowance: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people from City of York constituency are in receipt of

education maintenance allowance; and what the average monetary value of such allowances is. [324222]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is held by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). I have asked the LSC's chief executive, Geoff Russell, to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 24 March 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 324222 that asked:

"How many young people from City of York constituency are in receipt of education maintenance allowance; and what the average monetary value of such allowance is."

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

EMA take-up for York Local Authority area in the 2009/10 academic year was, at the end of February, 1,520.

The York average is unavailable but the value of all weekly payments released to learners nationally is £27.69. These figures comprise, historically, 80% of learners receiving £30, 10% of learners receiving £20 and the remaining 10% receiving £10.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08 is available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

Education: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on *(a)* primary education, *(b)* secondary education and *(c)* adult education in (i) Coventry and (ii) the West Midlands since 1997. [325047]

Mr. Coaker: The available information on how much has been spent on primary and secondary education is shown in the following tables. Adult education is a matter for the Department for Business and Innovation.

School-based expenditure in primary and secondary schools from 1997-98 to 2008-09

Coventry

	Primary education	Pre-primary and primary education	Secondary education	Total (including pre-primary)	Total (excluding pre-primary)
1997-98	—	52,796,000	49,730,000	102,526,000	—
1998-99	—	57,250,000	53,666,000	110,916,000	—
1999-2000	62,302,000	63,421,000	58,187,000	121,608,000	120,489,000
2000-01	67,336,000	68,317,000	64,529,000	132,846,000	131,865,000
2001-02	76,495,000	77,991,000	71,878,000	149,869,000	148,373,000
2002-03	71,055,000	—	70,316,000	—	141,370,000
2003-04	75,160,000	—	77,614,000	—	152,774,000
2004-05	78,127,000	—	83,505,000	—	161,633,000
2005-06	83,746,000	—	90,674,000	—	174,420,000
2006-07	89,577,000	—	94,730,000	—	184,307,000
2007-08	94,059,000	—	100,271,000	—	194,330,000
2008-09	97,844,000	—	104,175,000	—	202,019,000

England

	Primary education	Pre-primary and primary education	Secondary education	Total (including pre-primary)	Total (excluding pre-primary)
1997-98	—	7,277,910,000	5,775,271,000	13,053,181,000	—
1998-99	—	7,834,434,000	6,049,029,000	13,883,463,000	—
1999-2000	8,602,543,000	8,842,966,000	8,257,736,000	17,100,731,000	16,860,279,000
2000-01	9,425,272,000	9,761,443,000	9,093,528,000	18,854,970,000	18,518,799,000
2001-02	10,495,632,000	10,918,773,000	10,261,440,000	21,180,213,000	20,757,072,000
2002-03	10,584,953,000	—	10,621,927,000	—	21,206,880,000
2003-04	11,379,539,000	—	11,768,559,000	—	23,148,098,000
2004-05	11,900,153,000	—	12,603,303,000	—	24,503,456,000
2005-06	12,721,978,000	—	13,480,547,000	—	26,202,525,000
2006-07	13,394,477,000	—	14,174,472,000	—	27,568,949,000
2007-08	14,184,037,000		14,908,771,000	—	29,092,808,000

England

	Primary education	Pre-primary and primary education	Secondary education	Total (including pre-primary)	Total (excluding pre-primary)
2008-09	14,421,551,000	—	14,976,736,000	—	29,398,287,000

Notes:
1. The financial information used in the answer to this PQ is taken from the Department's section 52 data collection.
2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by CLG (formerly ODPM) to the section 52 form (now section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009) from the DCSF. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by the blank row. From 2002-03 school-based expenditure is taken from section 52 Outturn Table A line 51 net current expenditure (NCE). For 2001-02 and earlier years the expenditure is calculated as lines 1 to 12 less lines 29, 30, 35 and 37. This differs from the old Net Institutional Expenditure (NIE) calculation only in the treatment of meals and milk which is no longer excluded and no adjustments for balances are now made. This is taken from section 52 Outturn Table 3 for 1999-2000 to 2001-02 and from the RO1 form previously.
3. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of section 52 for financial year 1999-2000.
4. School-based expenditure in LA-maintained nursery schools was not recorded in 2002-03 and comparable figures are not available for 2003-04 onwards.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 26 March 2010.

GCE A-level: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils receiving free school meals obtained three or more A-levels at A grade in the last year for which figures are available. [307326]

Mr. Coaker: In 2008, 160 (3.5 per cent.) pupils eligible for free school meals achieved three or more A grades at A-level. The percentage is of all pupils eligible for free schools meals entered for at least one GCE/Applied GCE A-level/Double Award in 2008. This figure relates to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, 31 August 2007) in maintained schools only who were eligible for free school meals when they were academic age 16. The figures do not include the achievement of students in further education sector colleges previously eligible for free school meals.

GCSE

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils in each local authority area achieved *(a)* five GCSEs or equivalent at grades A* to C and *(b)* five GCSEs or equivalent including English and mathematics at grades A* to C in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [310261]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* eligible for free school meals and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals were entered for GCSEs in each subject in 2009. [312467]

Mr. Coaker: The information is shown in the following table.

The number and percentage of pupils entered for GCSEs in each subject in 2009 by free school meal eligibility

	Number of FSM pupils entered	Percentage of all FSM pupils at the end of key stage 4	Number of non-FSM pupils entered	Percentage of all non-FSM pupils at the end of key stage 4
Biological Science	3,525	4.7	67,737	13.4
Chemistry	2,985	4.0	64,334	12.8
Physics	2,954	4.0	64,231	12.7
Core Science	53,925	72.5	378,560	75.1
Additional Science	30,470	41.0	275,635	54.7
Additional Applied Science	6,965	9.4	39,902	7.9
Single Award Science	53,927	72.5	378,603	75.1
English	67,351	90.5	487,358	96.6
Maths	68,130	91.6	489,359	97.0
Statistics	6,112	8.2	63,908	12.7
Design and Technology and Electronics	1,028	1.4	10,583	2.1
Design and Technology and Food Technology	7,003	9.4	58,591	11.6
Design and Technology and Graphics	5,498	7.4	49,547	9.8
Design and Technology and Resistant Materials Technology	7,889	10.6	60,360	12.0
Design and Technology and Systems Control	436	0.6	5,325	1.1
Design and Technology and Textiles Technology	4,551	6.1	34,133	6.8
Office Technology	3,465	4.7	28,372	5.6
Information Technology	3,791	5.1	46,167	9.2
Business Studies	5,696	7.7	63,969	12.7
Home Economics	3,401	4.6	19,158	3.8
Geography	11,049	14.9	137,972	27.4
History	13,466	18.1	160,715	31.9
Music	2,951	4.0	39,641	7.9
Art and Design	17,714	23.8	135,362	26.8

The number and percentage of pupils entered for GCSEs in each subject in 2009 by free school meal eligibility

	Number of FSM pupils entered	*Percentage of all FSM pupils at the end of key stage 4*	*Number of non-FSM pupils entered*	*Percentage of all non-FSM pupils at the end of key stage 4*
Fine Art	4,019	5.4	36,876	7.3
English Literature	44,942	60.4	399,628	79.2
Drama	8,124	10.9	70,021	13.9
Media, Film and Television Studies	7,314	9.8	52,715	10.5
Physical Education	10,314	13.9	117,719	23.3
Religious Studies	16,202	21.8	137,223	27.2
French	10,273	13.8	130,311	25.8
German	3,098	4.2	58,014	11.5
Spanish	3,294	4.4	42,685	8.5
Italian	171	0.2	2,615	0.5
Arabic	676	0.9	751	0.1
Bengali	581	0.8	598	0.1
Chinese	109	0.1	1,168	0.2
Dutch	209	0.3	211	0.0
Gujarati	38	0.1	718	0.1
Japanese	48	0.1	797	0.2
Modern Greek	25	0.0	346	0.1
Modern Hebrew	12	0.0	230	0.0
Panjabi	111	0.1	760	0.2
Persian	144	0.2	253	0.1
Polish	61	0.1	2,021	0.4
Portuguese	254	0.3	938	0.2
Russian	62	0.1	871	0.2
Turkish	523	0.7	624	0.1
Urdu	1,248	1.7	2,747	0.5
Urdu	1,248	1.7	2,745	0.5

Notes:
1. Figures are revised.
2. Figures relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools.
Source:
National Pupil Database

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of students in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* independent mainstream schools, *(c)* pupil referral units, *(d)* special schools, *(e)* grammar schools, *(f)* academies and city technology colleges and *(g)* other modern and maintained schools in (i) Wirral and (ii) England attained (A) five GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A* to C, (B) five GCSEs at grades A* to G and (C) at least one pass at key stage four in each year since 1997. [316831]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 February 2010]*: The following links give *(a)*-*(g)* for England and Wirral figures for all schools. Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

1997/98—Tables 3a and 4a.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000063/index.shtml

1998/99—Tables 1 and 2.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000163/index.shtml

1999/2000—Tables 1 and 2.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000266/index.shtml

2000/01—Tables 1 and 2.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000334/index.shtml

2001/02—Tables 4 and 5.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000377/index.shtml

2002/03—Tables 1 and 12.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000474/index.shtml

2003/04—Tables 1, 4 and 16.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000585/index.shtml

2004/05—Tables 2, 5 and 18.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000664/index.shtml

2005/06—Tables 2, 5 and 18.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000702/index.shtml

2006/07—Tables 3, 6 and 18.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

2007/08—Tables 3, 6 and 18.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000826/index.shtml

2008/09—Tables 3, 6 and 16.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000909/index.shtml

Figures for 1996/97 to 2003/04 relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August). Figures from 2004/05 onwards relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4.

Figures for pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at A*-C grade including English and Maths were first published in 2005.

The first "academies" were opened in 2002 and the first figures were published in 2004.

"Grammar Schools" are included in "Selective Schools".

"Pupil Referral Units" are included in "Other Maintained Schools".

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in state schools in Wolverhampton achieved five GCSE grades including mathematics and English in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [322257]

Mr. Coaker: In 1997, 23.3 per cent. of 15-year-old pupils in maintained schools in Wolverhampton local authority achieved five or more GCSE[1] at grades A*-C including English and mathematics.

In 2009[2], 43.4 per cent. of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools in Wolverhampton local authority, achieved five or more GCSE[1] at grades A*-C including English and mathematics.

[1] GCSE and equivalents.

[2] Revised data.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of students who are *(a)* partially, *(b)* fully and *(c)* not home-educated achieved an A grade in three or more GCSEs in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [325309]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals did not achieve an A*- C grade at GCSE in both English and mathematics in 2003. [318940]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is provided in the following table:

	15-year-old pupils[1, 2] known to be eligible for free school meals who did not achieve an A- C at GCSE in both English and mathematics GCSEs in 2002-03*		*Fifteen year old pupils pupils[1, 2] known to not be eligible for free school meals who did not achieve an A*- C at GCSE in both English and mathematics GCSEs in 2002-03*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2002-03	67,195	82.8	266,217	53.9

[1] Aged 15 on 31 October 2002.

[2] Only pupils in maintained schools are included

Source:

National Pupil Database (2002-03 Final Data)

Languages: Curriculum

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has plans to increase the *(a)* time spent on study of foreign languages and *(b)* number of languages studied in schools; and if he will make a statement. [324643]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* We do not specify how much time schools should spend teaching individual subjects. It is the role of schools and teachers to decide how best to organise learning, including ensuring that sufficient time is allowed to teach the statutory requirements for each subject at each Key Stage.

Schools are free to choose which languages they offer. Since 2008, secondary schools no longer have to teach first a working language of the European Union before offering any other language. They can now teach any major world or European language. Examples given in the programme of study are Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish and Urdu. This should act as an incentive for schools to offer a wider range of languages.

In primary schools, languages will become compulsory from September 2011, subject to parliamentary approval of the Children, Schools and Families Bill. Schools will be free to choose which languages to offer.

Languages: GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals achieved a grade A* to C at GCSE in (i) French, (ii) German and (iii) Spanish in each year since 2004. [314217]

Mr. Coaker: The number and percentage of pupils achieving grade A* to C in GCSE by free school meal (FSM) eligibility in each year since 2004 are shown in the following tables.

French

	FSM		*non-FSM*	
	Number of pupils achieving A-C grades*	*Percentage of pupils achieving A*-C grades*	*Number of pupils achieving A*-C grades*	*Percentage of pupils achieving A*-C grades*
2009	4,773	6.4	88,287	17.5
2008	4,618	6.2	90,269	17.3
2007	4,935	6.4	93,941	18.0
2006	5,164	6.6	101,287	19.7
2005	6,140	7.7	110,358	22.0
2004	6,686	8.1	115,458	22.7

German

	FSM		*non-FSM*	
	Number of pupils achieving A-C grades*	*Percentage of pupils achieving A*-C grades*	*Number of pupils achieving A*-C grades*	*Percentage of pupils achieving A*-C grades*
2009	1,678	2.3	42,366	8.4
2008	1,643	2.2	42,695	8.2
2007	1,769	2.3	44,855	8.6
2006	1,955	2.5	49,137	9.5
2005	2,366	3.0	55,738	11.1
2004	2,445	3.0	57,861	11.4

Spanish

	FSM		*non-FSM*	
	Number of pupils achieving A-C grades*	*Percentage of pupils achieving A*-C grades*	*Number of pupils achieving A*-C grades*	*Percentage of pupils achieving A*-C grades*
2009	1,725	2.3	29,880	5.9
2008	1,618	2.2	28,349	5.4
2007	1,474	1.9	25,430	4.9

Spanish

	FSM		non-FSM	
	Number of pupils achieving A-C grades*	*Percentage of pupils achieving A*-C grades*	*Number of pupils achieving A*-C grades*	*Percentage of pupils achieving A*-C grades*
2006	1,486	1.9	23,890	4.6
2005	1,482	1.9	22,558	4.5
2004	1,551	1.9	21,546	4.2

Notes:
1. Figures are revised for 2009 and final for 2004 to 2008.
2. Figures relate to pupils in maintained schools at the end of key stage 4 for years 2005-09 and pupils aged 15 for 2004.
3. Percentages are based on 'all' FSM/non-FSM pupils at key stage 4, not just those who attempt a GCSE in the relevant subject.
Source:
National Pupil Database.

Mathematics: GCE A-Level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals in (i) maintained, (ii) comprehensive and (iii) independent schools were entered for further mathematics A-level in the most recent year for which figures are available. [318673]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* In 2008, free school meals entries for further mathematics are given in the table.

	Number of pupils eligible for FSM entered for GCE A level in further mathematics	*Percentage of pupils eligible for FSM entered for GCE A level in further mathematics*	*Number of pupils eligible for FSM entered for GCE A level in further mathematics*	*Percentage of pupils eligible for FSM entered for GCE A level in further mathematics*
Comprehensive schools	42	1.0	2,499	2.2
Maintained schools	53	1.1	3,743	2.7

Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2007) in maintained schools only who were eligible for free school meals.

Percentages are of all pupils with appropriate free school meal eligibility in the relevant institution type who were entered for at least one GCE/Applied GCE A level/Double Award in 2008.

Information on free school meal eligibility is not available for Independent schools. The figures also do not include entries of students in further education sector colleges previously eligible for free school meals.

Figures for comprehensive schools are also included within the figures for maintained schools.

National Safeguarding Delivery Unit

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1069-70W, on the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit, if he will place in the Library copies of the two progress reports submitted to the DA(FCY) ministerial sub-group in July and December 2009. [308986]

Dawn Primarolo: Consistent with long-standing practice, proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees are generally not disclosed as to do so puts at risk the public interest in both collective responsibility and the full and frank discussion of policy by Ministers.

Primary Schools: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point constituency have had revenue balances in excess of those predicted in each year since 1997. [321437]

Mr. Coaker: Revenue balances for individual maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools in England are publicly available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/financeandfunding/informationforlocalauthorities/section52/schoolbalances/s52sb/

The Department collects data on the balances held by schools via the Section 52 Outturn statements (soon to be Section 251 Outturn statements). We have collected information on balances since 1999-2000. The Section 52 Outturn statements are completed by all local authorities in England and we request only the final figures for the schools in their area. We do not collect predicted figures.

The Department considers excess balances as over 5 per cent. of budget share for secondary schools, and over 8 per cent. for all other schools. The following table provides the figures for the number of schools (primary and secondary) with balances exceeding 8 per cent. and 5 per cent. of total income in Essex from 1999-2000 to 2008-09. The Department does not hold figures by constituency.

The Education (Outturn Statements) (England) Regulations—school level excess revenue balances[1, 2, 3, 4, 5] figures for local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Essex local authority: 1999-2000 to 2008-09

Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 8 December 2009

	Primary					*Secondary*				
	Schools with excess surpluses (exceeding 8 per cent. of total income for primary schools)					*Schools with excess surpluses (exceeding 5 per cent. of total income for secondary schools)*				
	Total number of primary schools	*Total number of schools with excess surpluses*	*Percentage of schools with excess surpluses*	*Total value of surpluses over excess cut-off point (£)*	*Average value of surpluses over excess cut-off point (£ per school)*	*Total number of secondary schools*	*Total number of schools with excess surpluses*	*Percentage of schools with excess surpluses*	*Total value of surpluses over excess cut-off point (£)*	*Average value of surpluses over excess cut-off point (£ per school)*
1999-2000	490	257	52.4	5,159,931	20,078	80	32	40.0	3,415,615	106,738
2000-01	496	324	65.3	8,771,932	27,074	79	34	43.0	4,381,826	128,877
2001-02	484	331	68.4	10,819,083	32,686	80	27	33.8	3,372,231	124,897
2002-03	481	251	52.2	6,811,333	27,137	80	15	18.8	2,081,341	138,756

The Education (Outturn Statements) (England) Regulations—school level excess revenue balances[1, 2, 3, 4, 5] figures for local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Essex local authority: 1999-2000 to 2008-09

Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 8 December 2009

	Primary					*Secondary*				
	Schools with excess surpluses (exceeding 8 per cent. of total income for primary schools)					*Schools with excess surpluses (exceeding 5 per cent. of total income for secondary schools)*				
	Total number of primary schools	*Total number of schools with excess surpluses*	*Percentage of schools with excess surpluses*	*Total value of surpluses over excess cut-off point (£)*	*Average value of surpluses over excess cut-off point (£ per school)*	*Total number of secondary schools*	*Total number of schools with excess surpluses*	*Percentage of schools with excess surpluses*	*Total value of surpluses over excess cut-off point (£)*	*Average value of surpluses over excess cut-off point (£ per school)*
2003-04	480	219	45.6	6,422,508	29,327	81	17	21.0	1,570,367	92,375
2004-05	477	247	51.8	7,515,365	30,427	80	23	28.8	2,445,881	106,343
2005-06	475	221	46.5	7,503,789	33,954	80	23	28.8	2,512,459	109,237
2006-07	475	222	46.7	7,958,128	35,847	80	34	42.5	4,095,696	120,462
2007-08	476	244	51.3	8,696,301	35,641	80	29	36.3	5,476,888	188,858
2008-09	473	207	43.8	7,312,888	35,328	80	30	37.5	6,737,165	224,572

[1] A school's total revenue balance is calculated from the combination of any unspent allocations (including unspent Standards Fund grants) and the cumulative balance of income less expenditure from revenue funding sources during the financial year and any balances carried forward from previous years. This is drawn by adding together the unspent allocations and balance carried forward columns from local authorities Section 52 Outturn Statements 2001-02 (Table 2), Consistent Financial Reporting categories B01 and B02 from local authorities Section 52 Outturn Statements (Table B) 2002-03 to 2005-06 and Consistent Financial Reporting categories B01, B02 and B06 from local authorities Section 52 Outturn Statements (Table B) 2006-07 onwards.

[2] Included are all local authority maintained primary and secondary schools correctly reported by the local authority on their Section 52 Outturn Statement.

[3] In 2002-03 the Section 52 outturn categories were aligned with the Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) framework following the introduction of CFR to schools. Some inconsistencies with the balance figures reported by local authorities' in 2002-03 were identified and consequently caution should be exercised when using the balance figures for that year.

[4] School level revenue balances are not available prior to the inception of Section 52 for the 1999-2000 financial year.

[5] A schools total revenue income for the year includes all revenue funding available to the year as well as any additional income generated by the school. This does not include any revenue balances carried forward from previous years.

Schools: Consultants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward proposals for a register of consultants and investigators seeking work from schools and local authorities. [324737]

Mr. Coaker: There are no plans for the introduction of a register of consultants and investigators who may be seeking work from schools and local authorities. The operation of disciplinary procedures, including those that result in suspension and possible dismissal is entirely a matter for local determination and schools and local authorities themselves will decide who to engage to provide any additional advice and support they feel they may need.

Schools: Internet

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received from *(a)* schools and *(b)* representative groups in Gloucestershire on the effects of internet charges on schools in that area; what plans he has for the future funding of the Harnessing Technology Grant; and if he will make a statement. [324768]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* The Secretary of State has received a representation from the head teacher at St. Thomas More Catholic primary school in Cheltenham and others in connection with broadband internet costs and the Harnessing Technology Grant. Inquiries have also been made by schools and other representative groups to Becta, the Government's educational technology agency which covers these areas.

Becta have replied to correspondents on these issues, on behalf of my Department, both in Gloucestershire and in relation to other counties affected by high internet charges. We sympathise with this situation, particularly with small schools that have faced increased costs. The Harnessing Technology Grant is a capital grant and can therefore only be used for capital expenditure. Broadband connectivity costs are a revenue cost, therefore the Harnessing Technology Grant cannot be used for this purpose. This has always been the case since the Harnessing Technology Grant was introduced and no changes to rules around the capital of the grant have been made. Unfortunately it is not possible to reclassify this capital funding as revenue, as some schools have requested. Broadband costs should be taken from the revenue funding that is provided for ICT in schools, but we do appreciate that there can be pressures on these budgets.

Becta continues to offer advice to all local authorities in the regions on these issues, and have specifically said that their regional delivery team colleague would be happy to meet representatives of schools in Gloucestershire, together with local authority officers to explore ways of addressing the issues.

The Harnessing Technology Grant itself is based on a funding formula which includes a built-in sparsity element, which helps schools in rural areas in acquiring technology, but as described above this is a capital grant and should not be used for revenue costs. £603 million has been made available through the Harnessing Technology Grant in each of the three years of the current spending review period. £201 million will be available in the 2010-11 financial year. Provision after that will be subject to the usual discussion around the next comprehensive spending review period.

Science: GCE A-level

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals passed three A levels including *(a)* chemistry, biology or chemistry and

biology and *(b)* a science or mathematics subject in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [311213]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* The information available is given in the following table:

Pupils eligible for free school meals who passed three A-levels including selected subjects in 2008

Subject	Number
Chemistry	519
Biology	622
Chemistry and Biology	388
A science or mathematics	1,161

Source:
National Pupil Database (NPD)

Pupil level data relating to eligibility for free school meals were not collected in 1997.

These figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, ie 31 August 2007) in maintained schools only and do not include the achievement of students in further education sector colleges previously eligible for free school meals.

Science: GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals attended schools which did not enter at least one pupil in at least one science subject at GCSE in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [311212]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* Of all pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 that are eligible for free school meals in maintained schools, 1,172 pupils (1.6 per cent.) were on roll at schools, in January 2009, that entered no pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in at least one science subject in 2009.

Data for 1997 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals were entered for a GCSE in biology in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [317221]

Mr. Coaker: Of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in 2009, in maintained schools, eligible for free school meals, 3,525 were entered for biology GCSE.

Comparable figures for 1997 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in 2005, in maintained schools, eligible for free school meals, 1,674 were entered for biology GCSE.

Support for All: The Families and Relationships

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been allocated to rolling-out free bookshop book packs as announced in Support for All: the Families and Relationships Green Paper to date. [318386]

Dawn Primarolo: Funding for the Booktrust programme as referred to in Support for All: the Families and Relationships Green Paper is £18 million in 2009-11. This programme continues to provide free book packs to families with young children at six to nine months, 18 months and three years, each giving age-appropriate children's books and advice to parents and carers to promote shared reading, storytelling and rhymes in the home.

Sure Start Programme

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start children's centres there are in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency, *(b)* region and *(c)* local authority area. [325026]

Dawn Primarolo: Table 1 gives the numbers of designated Sure Start children's centres in each Government office region and table 2 the numbers of children's centres in each local authority area, at the end of February 2010.

The numbers of children's centres in each constituency are not collected centrally.

Table 1: Designated Sure Start children's centres

Region	Number
East Midlands	306
East of England	396
London	543
North East	187
North West	459
South East	548
South West	313
West Midlands	374
Yorks and Humber	378

Table 2: Designated Sure Start children's centres

Region	Local authority	Number
EE	Bedford Borough	15
EE	Cambridgeshire	37
EE	Central Bedfordshire	22
EE	Essex	79
EE	Hertfordshire	76
EE	Luton	22
EE	Norfolk	53
EE	Peterborough, City of	15
EE	Southend on Sea	14
EE	Suffolk	48
EE	Thurrock	15
EM	Derby, City of	18
EM	Derbyshire	54
EM	Leicester, City of	23
EM	Leicestershire	41
EM	Lincolnshire	48
EM	Northamptonshire	49
EM	Nottingham, City of	16
EM	Nottinghamshire	55
EM	Rutland	2
LON	Barking and Dagenham	16
LON	Barnet	18
LON	Bexley	13
LON	Brent	14

Table 2: Designated Sure Start children's centres

Region	Local authority	Number
LON	Bromley	18
LON	Camden	17
LON	Croydon	26
LON	Ealing	22
LON	Enfield	24
LON	Greenwich	24
LON	Hackney	19
LON	Hammersmith and Fulham	15
LON	Haringey	17
LON	Harrow	13
LON	Havering	13
LON	Hillingdon	12
LON	Hounslow	14
LON	Islington	16
LON	Kensington and Chelsea	8
LON	Kingston upon Thames	11
LON	Lambeth	28
LON	Lewisham	17
LON	London, City of	1
LON	Merton	11
LON	Newham	20
LON	Redbridge	14
LON	Richmond upon Thames	9
LON	Southwark	21
LON	Sutton	14
LON	Tower Hamlets	23
LON	Waltham Forest	17
LON	Wandsworth	23
LON	Westminster, City of	15
NE	Darlington	6
NE	Durham	43
NE	Gateshead	15
NE	Hartlepool	8
NE	Middlesbrough	13
NE	Newcastle upon Tyne	18
NE	North Tyneside	12
NE	Northumberland	20
NE	Redcar and Cleveland	12
NE	South Tyneside	12
NE	Stockton on Tees	11
NE	Sunderland	17
NW	Blackburn with Darwen	13
NW	Blackpool	13
NW	Bolton	18
NW	Bury	14
NW	Cheshire East	17
NW	Cheshire West and Chester	20
NW	Cumbria	22
NW	Halton	7
NW	Knowsley	15
NW	Lancashire	79
NW	Liverpool	26
NW	Manchester	40
NW	Oldham	16
NW	Rochdale	17
NW	Salford	16
NW	Sefton	15

Table 2: Designated Sure Start children's centres

Region	Local authority	Number
NW	St. Helens	12
NW	Stockport	19
NW	Tameside	17
NW	Trafford	16
NW	Warrington	12
NW	Wigan	20
NW	Wirral	15
SE	Bracknell Forest	8
SE	Brighton and Hove	15
SE	Buckinghamshire	35
SE	East Sussex	35
SE	Hampshire	81
SE	Isle of Wight	8
SE	Kent	91
SE	Medway	19
SE	Milton Keynes	19
SE	Oxfordshire	44
SE	Portsmouth	16
SE	Reading	13
SE	Slough	10
SE	Southampton	14
SE	Surrey	65
SE	West Berkshire	10
SE	West Sussex	49
SE	Windsor and Maidenhead	7
SE	Wokingham	9
SW	Bath and North East Somerset	11
SW	Bournemouth	7
SW	Bristol, City of	24
SW	Cornwall	36
SW	Devon	43
SW	Dorset	23
SW	Gloucestershire	33
SW	Isles of Scilly	1
SW	North Somerset	13
SW	Plymouth, City of	17
SW	Poole	8
SW	Somerset	36
SW	South Gloucestershire	13
SW	Swindon	11
SW	Torbay	7
SW	Wiltshire	30
WM	Birmingham	75
WM	Coventry	23
WM	Dudley	20
WM	Herefordshire	12
WM	Sandwell	21
WM	Shropshire	18
WM	Solihull	14
WM	Staffordshire	54
WM	Stoke on Trent	16
WM	Telford and Wrekin	13
WM	Walsall	17
WM	Warwickshire	39
WM	Wolverhampton	18
WM	Worcestershire	34
YH	Barnsley	19
YH	Bradford	40

Table 2: Designated Sure Start children's centres

Region	Local authority	Number
YH	Calderdale	16
YH	Doncaster	21
YH	East Riding of Yorkshire	19
YH	Kingston upon Hull, City of	20
YH	Kirklees	32
YH	Leeds	58
YH	North East Lincolnshire	14
YH	North Lincolnshire	12
YH	North Yorkshire	37
YH	Rotherham	22
YH	Sheffield	36
YH	Wakefield	23
YH	York, City of	9

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was allocated to Sure Start in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* region in each year since the programme started. [325027]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* The Department does not collect information by constituency. Sure Start allocations were made to local authorities. Each local authority is responsible for managing Sure Start activity across their area and will decide how much to spend in each constituency.

The Sure Start funding allocated to each region since the programme started is given in Table 1 as follows.

Table 1. Sure Start funding allocations by Government office regions

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02		2002-03	
	Revenue	Revenue	Revenue	Revenue	Capital	Total
East of England	20,043,508	31,518,124	37,437,420	49,485,557	2,042,587	51,528,144
East Midlands	14,297,582	24,441,880	33,402,830	37,874,539	1,704,998	39,579,537
Greater London	32,229,445	66,882,810	76,713,495	79,415,189	4,970,029	84,385,218
North East England	5,673,213	15,445,736	23,273,623	20,003,787	1,495,777	21,499,564
North West England	24,277,665	50,611,644	65,603,851	68,245,609	3,121,816	71,367,425
South East England	38,931,706	55,170,211	70,566,324	92,081,432	3,291,810	95,373,242
South West England	21,533,970	35,531,255	45,029,438	56,212,800	1,915,448	58,128,248
West Midlands	18,205,989	36,611,980	48,503,077	49,318,215	2,290,218	51,608,433
Yorkshire and Humber	16,368,967	36,578,882	48,095,722	48,142,976	2,126,564	50,269,540
Total	191,562,045	352,792,522	448,625,780	500,780,104	22,959,247	523,739,351

	2003-04			2004-05[1]		
	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Total
East of England	35,919,076	2,660,821	38,579,897	105,528,958	18,258,719	123,787,677
East Midlands	45,394,054	1,015,694	46,409,748	126,070,925	27,535,534	153,606,459
Greater London	102,705,690	6,065,398	108,771,088	287,237,921	68,644,344	355,882,265
North East England	56,562,964	1,848,490	58,411,454	143,187,025	29,948,724	173,135,749
North West England	105,938,322	2,110,147	108,048,469	284,689,005	71,249,942	355,938,947
South East England	51,796,246	1,843,397	53,639,643	153,230,897	22,620,266	175,851,163
South West England	42,591,345	1,650,528	44,241,873	117,284,366	20,986,070	138,270,436
West Midlands	64,606,486	3,605,196	68,211,682	181,065,306	47,298,847	228,364,153
Yorkshire and Humber	67,643,111	3,845,273	71,488,384	189,860,030	47,815,746	237,675,776
Total	573,157,294	24,644,944	597,802,238	1,588,154,433	354,358,192	1,942,512,625

	2006-07			2007-08		
	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Total
East of England	78,484,923	27,883,222	106,368,145	91,841,007	56,157,959	147,998,966
East Midlands	82,463,531	22,398,077	104,861,608	92,299,850	47,272,341	139,572,191
Greater London	196,351,280	48,514,164	244,865,444	209,218,266	97,697,420	306,915,686
North East England	79,604,799	13,226,762	92,831,561	78,968,265	24,026,753	102,995,018
North West England	179,079,554	36,057,692	215,137,246	188,227,296	70,608,390	258,835,686
South East England	111,695,321	42,089,009	153,784,330	127,132,586	84,510,408	211,642,994
South West England	77,144,126	24,042,982	101,187,108	90,156,480	48,410,334	138,566,814
West Midlands	122,583,930	31,076,015	153,659,945	132,399,813	61,027,233	193,427,046
Yorkshire and Humber	120,307,067	26,966,653	147,273,720	132,950,458	54,977,589	187,928,047
Total	1,047,714,531	272,254,576	1,319,969,107	1,143,194,022	544,688,427	1,687,882,449

	2008-09			2009-10		
	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Total
East of England	110,907,991	33,757,225	144,665,216	136,587,997	89,800,385	226,388,382
East Midlands	107,622,263	22,851,117	130,473,380	125,780,024	56,284,903	182,064,927
Greater London	249,018,438	56,339,417	305,357,855	295,535,902	129,447,114	424,983,016

	2008-09			2009-10		
	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Total
North East England	88,813,114	14,113,402	102,926,516	99,713,407	26,769,768	126,483,175
North West England	210,782,279	38,538,278	249,320,557	238,241,709	75,123,233	313,364,942
South East England	154,203,724	50,892,500	205,096,224	190,672,412	122,711,970	313,384,382
South West England	102,620,863	31,022,746	133,643,609	121,853,824	66,455,147	188,308,971
West Midlands	153,281,531	28,949,795	182,231,326	175,695,599	69,132,240	244,827,839
Yorkshire and Humber	149,707,512	29,243,066	178,950,578	170,498,402	61,451,826	231,950,228
Total	1,326,957,713	305,707,546	1,632,665,259	1,554,579,276	697,176,586	2,251,755,862

[1] Local authorities received a two year allocation in 2004-06.

Sure Start Local programmes (SSLPs) were the precursors of Children's Centres. SSLP revenue allocations prior to 2003-04 are not readily available at a local authority level and are not shown in table 1 above. The expenditure for SSLP revenue from 1999 to 2003 is shown in Table 2 as follows.

Table 2: Sure Start Local programme expenditure by local authorities from 1999 to 2003

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
SSLP revenue expenditure	3,196,391	32,832,645	104,776,562	174,277,508

SSLPs were given multi year capital allocations from programme inception to the end of 2005-06. Therefore it is not possible to disaggregate allocations by financial year. The total SSLP capital allocation is shown in Table 3 as follows.

Table 3: SSLP Capital allocation from 1999-2006 by Government office regions

East of England	25,226,389
East Midlands	41,078,839
Greater London	88,741,966
North East England	61,642,396
North West England	85,947,406
South East England	30,979,684
South West England	31,684,627
West Midlands	50,505,885
Yorkshire and Humber	63,830,952
Total	479,638,144

Teachers: Armed Forces

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many former service personnel have entered the teaching profession as a result of his Department's Transition to Teaching programme since the programme was established. [304898]

Mr. Coaker: The Transition to Teaching programme was launched in July 2008. 14 ex-service personnel have been supported in total, with 11 still involved in the programme in the following capacities:

two are on Initial Teacher Training (ITT)

five are actively considering applying for ITT

four are being supported by advisers in making a decision.

Teachers: Literacy and Numeracy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many entrants to teacher training courses re-took *(a)* literacy and *(b)* numeracy tests (i) once and (ii) two or more times in the last year for which figures are available. [318453]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Literacy Test

In 2007-08, 3,760 entrants to teacher training courses had to re-take the literacy test once. The number of entrants who re-took the test twice or more times was 2,490.

(b) Numeracy Test

In 2007-08, 3,260 entrants to teacher training courses had to re-take the numeracy test once. The number of entrant who re-took the test twice or more times was 3,480.

Teachers: North West

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers in full-time employment there were in *(a)* the North-West and *(b)* Manchester Central constituency in each year since 1997. [324884]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* The following table provides the full-time number of teachers employed in local authority maintained schools, city technology colleges and academies in the north west Government office region and Manchester Central constituency in each January, 1997 to 2009.

Full-time regular teachers (excluding occasionals) in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units, city technology colleges and academies, January 1997 to 2009

Coverage: North West Government office region (GOR) and Manchester Central parliamentary constituency (PC)

January	North West GOR[1]	Manchester Central PC[2]
1997	55,950	[3]
1998	55,770	630
1999	56,380	650
2000	56,350	610
2001	56,460	600
2002	57,170	600
2003	57,220	570
2004	57,110	570
2005	56,950	540
2006	56,850	550
2007	55,500	550
2008	54,860	570
2009	55,080	580

[1] Source: Local authority maintained schools (618g), city technology and academy teachers (school census).
[2] Source: school census.
[3] Not available.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Truancy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath of 3 March 2010,

Official Report, column 1301-2W, on truancy, what the figures for *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* average fines are for each (i) constituency and (ii) local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [324760]

Mr. Coaker: Figures for *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* average fines, relating to parents not ensuring their child attended school, are not available by either (i) constituency or (ii) local authority area.

Young People: Unemployment

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents aged between 16 and 18 years old were not in education, employment or training in each quarter of each year since 1997. [317652]

Mr. Iain Wright: Quarterly estimates of the number and proportion of young people aged 16-18 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) are produced from the labour force survey (LFS). The sample size of the quarterly LFS is too small to allow robust estimates of the proportion of 16 to 18-year-old parents who are NEET.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colombia: Human Rights

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Colombian authorities on the recent assassination of Colombian human rights defender Jhonny Hurtado and its effects on the human rights situation in that country. [324085]

Chris Bryant: Our ambassador in Bogota has expressed his concern and dismay at the assassination of Mr. Hurtado and has requested updates on the progress of the investigation into his killing from the Director of the Presidential Human Rights Programme and the Head of the International Relations Unit at the Colombian Prosecutor's Office.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will instruct HM Ambassador in Bogota to raise the recent assassination of Colombian human rights defender Jhonny Hurtado and its effects on the human rights situation in that country with the Colombia office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. [324086]

Chris Bryant: Our ambassador does not intend to raise this case with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia. However, he has raised Mr. Hurtado's assassination with the Director of the Presidential Human Rights Programme and the Head of the International Relations Unit at the Colombian Prosecutor's Office.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports on the possible involvement of soldiers of the 7th Mobile Brigade of the Colombian Army in the recent assassination of Colombian human rights defender Jhonny Hurtado; and if he will make a statement. [324087]

Chris Bryant: I was dismayed to learn of the killing of Mr. Hurtado, who was President of the Human Rights committee of La Catalina, in the La Macarena region, and who had met members of the Justice for Colombia delegation that visited Colombia in December. I have received no reports about the involvement of members of the Colombian armed forces in the killing of Mr. Hurtado. However, our ambassador in Bogota has requested updates on the progress of the investigation into his killing from the Director of the Presidential Human Rights Programme and the Head of the International Relations Unit at the Colombian Prosecutor's Office.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department and its agencies have spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324439]

Chris Bryant: No money has been spent on rooms for staff leisure on the UK estate in the last five years. Information on the overseas estate could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324561]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides space free of charge to house the gym in King Charles Street in the UK. The cost of the gym equipment and running costs of the facility are paid entirely by gym members' subscriptions.

This information is not held centrally for overseas posts and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324677]

Chris Bryant: These data are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324976]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO) has power factor correction equipment installed on one power supply to the King Charles street building and to selected buildings within the Hanslope Park site.

No voltage optimisers or equivalent technologies are installed in the remaining FCO buildings in the UK.

Information on this type of equipment within the global FCO estate is not held centrally. Details could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on antique furniture in each of the last five years; and what items were purchased. [325109]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and is only available at disproportionate cost. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office uses its existing stocks of furniture, including modern, reproduction and antique, to furnish its estate wherever possible.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325197]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) web presence comprises over 250 websites, in 40 languages with 35 million visitors a year (2008-09 statistics). Over the last three years the FCO presence has evolved from a main website and web platform hosting a number of embassy websites (2003-08) to a completely new web platform hosting all of the FCO's websites plus FCO blogs and campaign sites.

Due to these significant changes we do not have full and comparable data for the last three years.

The FCO's website templates are compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, and during the development of the website the FCO conducted user testing to improve accessibility. The FCO's accessibility statement for its website is available at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/accessibility

A website user experience manager oversees accessibility issues.

Users can give feedback on the website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/feedback

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325215]

Chris Bryant: Design costs for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) main website were wrapped up with other technical and functionality costs and so it is not possible to calculate the exact cost of external website design consultants without incurring disproportionate cost. The FCO also contributes towards websites for specific campaigns and projects aimed at delivering consular and foreign policy objectives. The costs of external websites design consultants for all websites hosted or supported by the FCO are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what such items were. [324713]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has incurred expenditure on *(a)* foreign exchange derivatives and *(b)* consulting on currency hedging strategies in each of the last three years. [325123]

Chris Bryant: Prior to May 2008 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office purchased our foreign currency requirements at the spot rate at the time we needed the currency. From May 2008 we began a foreign currency forward purchase programme. The forward purchase contracts are placed via the Bank of England. HiFX Intelligent Financial Services provide ongoing specialist consultancy support at a cost of £3,000 per month + VAT.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 381W, on departmental telephone services, whether his Department has awarded contracts for the provision of services relating to its travel advice telephone information line. [324115]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office awarded MM Group the contract to run its Travel Advice Help Line from 13 February 2003. MM Group were acquired by Teleperformance in 2004. The contract is managed by the Central Office of Information.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs from which companies his Department sourced temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff his Department employed in each year; and what the monetary value of the contracts with each such company was in each such year. [320017]

Chris Bryant: The following tables show the number of temporary staff the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) recruited in the UK in financial years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 on short-term civil service contracts. They do not include staff recruited locally to work at posts overseas. We could not obtain figures for these without incurring disproportionate cost.

	Temporary employees recruited into FCO
2006-07	55
2007-08	51
2008-09	51

In September 2006 the FCO devolved the responsibility for hiring temporary staff from agencies to directorates. FCO directorates have been able to choose from a selection of employment agencies under the national framework for temporary staff. Most of these are for the supply of Administrative Officer (FCO Grade A2) staff in London. The agencies that have been used are : Eclipse, Manpower, Select Appointments , Adecco, Hays and Kelly Services.

In July 2009, the FCO's Corporate Procurement Group negotiated a single contract on behalf of the whole organisation with Hays Specialist Recruitment for the provision of temporary agency staff. The aim is to give more effective controls, secure better management information, simplify requisition processes and deliver better value to the taxpayer. The contract became effective on 1 March 2010 when it was introduced to three key FCO Directorates, with others rolling out a phased approach over the next three months.

Amounts paid (including VAT) to the main UK agencies used by the FCO since 2006 are as follows:

Supplier	2006-07	2007-08	£ 2008-09
Eclipse	401,840	305,9512	179,154
Manpower	491,762	279,457	217,897
Select Appointments	94,719	43,232	0
Adecco	775,685	33,856	6,762
Hays	300,401	547,830	630,338
Kelly Services	53,865	11,859	0

FCO Services (FCOS) is an executive agency of the FCO and has been operating independently as a trading fund since 1 April 2008. It is not possible to provide details on the number or cost of temporary staff FCOS employed during the period requested without incurring disproportionate cost.

Georgia: Politics and Government

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Georgian government over the screening on Georgian television on 15 March 2010 of a film purporting to represent a Russian invasion of Georgia; and if he will make a statement. [324650]

David Miliband: Our ambassador in Tbilisi met Georgian Foreign Minister Vashadze on 17 March to discuss Imedi Television's 13 March news broadcast, which simulated a Russian attack on Georgia. The ambassador also made our position clear in a public letter to Imedi, in which he described the broadcast as irresponsible, and protested against the unauthorised and misleading use of images of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and himself.

The Georgian Government have acknowledged our concerns over the use of this footage, and the risks the programme posed to stability in Georgia. Imedi has written to our ambassador and publicly apologised.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the President of Georgia on *(a)* media freedom, *(b)* human rights, *(c)* democracy and *(d)* the rule of law in Georgia in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [324651]

David Miliband: I raised the importance of continued Georgian efforts to reform in these areas when I met President Saakashvili on 18 February. We continue to remind the Georgian Government, including at ministerial level, that commitment to reform, particularly judicial and electoral reform, and strengthening democracy, media freedom and human rights are key to maintaining international support. My hon. Friend, the Minister for Europe raised these issues with the Georgian Foreign Minister in October 2009, and the Prime Minister in November 2009.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of *(a)* media freedom, *(b)* human rights, *(c)* democracy and *(d)* the rule of law in Georgia; and if he will make a statement. [324652]

David Miliband: Georgia is making some progress towards necessary reforms in these areas. Public trust in the media is low and there are concerns about a lack of transparency surrounding ownership of the media. Georgia has taken steps to improve human rights and detention conditions, but can still do more to investigate the alleged harassment of opposition activists and take action against security forces responsible for such harassment. Georgia has improved its electoral code, with support from the Venice Commission but May's local elections will be an important test for the new arrangements. We, with our partners, will continue to monitor the human rights situation closely, raise areas of concern, and support Georgia's efforts to meet international human rights standards.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the President of Georgia on the conduct of forthcoming elections in that country; and if he will make a statement. [324653]

David Miliband: I raised Georgia's elections when I met President Saakahsvili in February. I reminded him of the importance we attach to free and fair elections, and to Georgia's continued democratic and judicial reforms.

We regularly discuss and encourage these reforms with Georgian Government Ministers. We have made clear that free and fair elections are important in demonstrating Georgia's progress in taking forward political reform, underpinning Georgia's strategy of engagement with the separatist regions, and moving towards greater integration with the EU.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what resources *(a)* the Government, *(b)* the EU, *(c)* the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and *(d)* other international institutions have provided for monitoring the forthcoming elections in Georgia; and if he will make a statement. [324654]

David Miliband: Georgia has invited Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) observers to monitor the May elections, which will be a key test of Georgia's democratic credentials. We welcome this invitation: the presence of OSCE monitors will help increase transparency. The UK, our EU partners and other OSCE participating states are considering how best to support the OSCE's call for up to 30 long-term and 350 short-term observers. In addition, our embassy plans to observe the elections in close coordination with other missions and local civil society organisations.

Government Communications Headquarters

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the critical facilities managed by Group 4 Securicor (G4S) are at GCHQ that are referred to on page two of the unprinted paper reported to the House by the Defence Select Committee on 10 February 2010; and if he will make a statement. [324856]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* The services provided by Group 4 Securicor (G4S) help ensure that GCHQ's office facilities are: secure, fit for purpose and maintained to appropriate standards of cleanliness. G4S also provide catering and other logistical support (e.g. mail and recycling services).

Intelligence and Security Committee

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the contribution of the Chairman of the Intelligence and Security Committee, 18 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 997, on Intelligence and Security Committee, if he will take steps to ensure that when the current committee members stand down, there will be no attempt to interfere with the Committee's secretariat in the intervening period before a new committee is appointed; and if he will make a statement. [324199]

The Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

The committee's staff are civil servants. Like other civil servants they remain in post during an election campaign, bound by the usual rules of political impartiality.

Marine Resources and Fisheries Consultants: Contracts

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Government contracts have been awarded to Marine Resources and Fisheries Consultants Ltd. since January 2008; and what the monetary value of such contracts is. [324635]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has never awarded a contract to a company called Marine Resources and Fisheries Consultants Ltd.

The FCO has however awarded one contract to the Marine Resource Assessment Group (MRAG) Ltd. since January 2008. The contract is for the provision of technical and scientific fisheries advice in relation to the UK's Overseas Territories and was awarded after the conclusion of a competitive tender exercise, in line with public procurement guidelines. The contract is a call-off contract and the value of the contract is therefore subject to variation depending on the amount and type of work undertaken. During the 2008-09 financial year the amount spent on this contract was £200,296.85 excluding VAT.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of *(a)* rockets and *(b)* mortar bombs launched into Israeli territory from (i) Lebanon and (ii) Gaza since 1 January 2010; what reports he has received of the number of persons (A) killed, (B) seriously injured and (C) slightly injured; and if he will make a statement. [324397]

Chris Bryant: According to our information, in 2010, as of 10 March, there have been 41 rockets and 28 mortars fired at Israel from Gaza. There has been one fatality (a foreign worker) in 2010 in Southern Israel as a result of a rocket attack, and no injuries. Additionally two Israeli soldiers were killed on 26 March following a clash with Palestinian militants.

There have been no cross-border rockets or mortars fired into Israel from Lebanon this year.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with his Israeli counterpart on the teaching of Arabic in Israel. [323631]

Chris Bryant: The UK regularly raises concerns regarding coexistence between the Jewish and Arab communities in Israel. I discussed these in my meeting with the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister on 9 February. We also highlighted the issue in the 2009 Foreign and Commonwealth Office Annual Report on Human Rights, which was published on 17 March.

Additionally the UK has provided over £100,000 of financial support to educational projects which promote coexistence, including the teaching of Arabic, between Jewish and Arab children in Israel.

Morocco: Fishery Agreements

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to call for the suspension of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement. [324141]

Chris Bryant: The Government have no plans at present to seek the suspension of the EU Fisheries Agreement with Morocco.

Morocco: Political Prisoners

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request HM Ambassador in Morocco to seek information on the detention by the Moroccan authorities of *(a)* Ali Salem Tamek, *(b)* Brahim Dahane, *(c)* Ahmed Nasiri, *(d)* Yahdih Tarouzi and *(e)* Rashid Sghir. [324139]

Chris Bryant: We are aware of the arrest of these five people, and two others, at Casablanca airport on 8 October 2009. The Moroccan authorities have publicly stated that the individuals are being held in relation to charges of treason and conspiracy against the state with enemy forces. Six remain on remand in Morocco. One has been released pending trial.

We and our EU colleagues continue to monitor the case. We have discussed this with the Moroccan authorities on several occasions and underlined the importance of a free and fair trial. We are also in contact with local

non-governmental organisations who are following the case. Some of these been granted access to visit the individuals in prison and have stated their intention to observe the trial.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with *(a)* the Westminster Foundation, *(b)* the Interparliamentary Union and *(c)* other international bodies the funding of opposition parties in Sudan prior to the forthcoming election and referendum in that country. [324743]

Chris Bryant: Under The Sudanese National Elections Act 2008, political parties cannot finance their campaign activities through any financial and material support, donations or other means of support from foreign countries or any foreign body. It is for the National Elections Commission to disperse Government of National Unity funds to opposition parties. The UK does however provide funding to the UN Development Programme Strategic Partnership Fund which has supported political parties' training and capacity development.

Tibet

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he raised the issue of Tibet during his recent visit to China. [324701][1]

Chris Bryant: During my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's visit to China he raised the issue of Tibet with Premier Wen and Foreign Minister Yang. He expressed our continued concern at the situation in Tibet, including the heavy security presence, and restrictions on freedom of expression and religion. He welcomed the resumption of the talks between the Chinese authorities and representatives of the Dalai Lama but emphasised that the talks must be substantive to be successful.

Following this visit, the UK and China held a human rights dialogue on 18 March 2010. At this we pressed for access to the Tibetan Autonomous Region for diplomats and journalists and expressed concern over the numbers in detention following the March 2008 unrest, and related death sentences. We also expressed concern over cultural rights and religious freedom in Tibet. In advance of the dialogue we handed over a list of individual cases of concern, which included 17 Tibetan cases. We have yet to receive a response on any of the cases.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has just published its annual report on human rights. China was once again listed as a country of concern. A copy can be found on the FCO website. In it I have made clear that promotion of human rights is a fundamental part of our relationship with China. Significant progress has been made in economic and social rights, with 500 million raised out of poverty in just 30 years. But progress in civil and political rights has been much slower. It is in our interests to help China move towards greater respect for human rights, transparency and accountability.

1. *[Official Report, 25 May 2010, Vol. 510, c. 1MC.]*

Western Sahara: Fisheries

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there have been discussions at joint committee meetings between the European Commission and Morocco on the effect on the Saharawi and other peoples of the Western Sahara of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement. [324135]

Chris Bryant: We are not aware at such discussions having taken place.

Fisheries agreements with third countries such as the agreement with Morocco fall within the exclusive competence of the European Union and it is therefore the European Commission which negotiates the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) with Morocco on the member states' behalf.

World War II: Anniversaries

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he received on the attendance of UK nationals at the commemoration of Latvian Waffen SS veterans in Riga on 16 March 2010. [325035]

Chris Bryant: We have received no reports of UK nationals attending the commemoration this year, but the event did go ahead and was attended by veterans of the Latvian Legion and their supporters.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324680]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has not spent any money on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what those items were. [324716]

Mr. Michael Foster: The requested information is not held centrally and would incur disproportionate costs to disaggregate from overall programme costs.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has incurred expenditure on *(a)* foreign exchange derivatives and *(b)* consulting on currency hedging strategies in each of the last three years. [325122]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not incurred any expenditure on *(a)* foreign exchange derivatives or *(b)* consulting on currency hedging strategies in the last three years.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to his Department's consultation on the Renewable Heat Incentive, if he will make an estimate of the effect on *(a)* morbidity and *(b)* mortality of the implementation of the 2020 biomass targets under the renewable energy strategy. [323954]

Mr. Kidney: The Renewable Energy Strategy promotes the uptake of biomass as one of a range of renewable fuel sources for the production of heat and electricity. It does not include specific targets for biomass within the overall target for renewable energy in 2020.

The impact assessment accompanying the consultation on the Renewable Heat Incentive sets out the likely impact on health costs of changes in air quality, based on a range of scenarios for scale of biomass uptake, type of locations and quality of emission performance. The consultation proposes the introduction of emission standards which will reduce the impact on air quality. Work continues to quantify the scale of uptake and the impact of the resulting change in air quality on public health and the achievement of air quality objectives.

Biofuels: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to his consultation on the Renewable Heat Incentive, if he will *(a)* estimate the cumulative emissions of black carbon from biomass boilers by 2020 and *(b)* assess the likely effects on global warming of the black carbon emitted from those boilers by 2020. [323767]

Mr. Kidney: We recognise that, compared with most climate gases, black carbon is a powerful warming agent (a 100-year global warming potential approximately 650 times that of carbon dioxide) but it has a very short average lifetime (residence time) in the atmosphere (up to a week or two). It is removed by rain and snowfall, and through direct deposition on land surfaces and the surface of the ocean. We are working collaboratively within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's convention on long-range transboundary air pollution to examine the significance of black carbon.

Estimates are not currently available on black carbon emissions from biomass boilers in the UK. However, we expect that the proposed emission standards to be introduced under the RHI will have a significant impact in reducing concentrations of black carbon compared to the current situation.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has discussed with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs the likely consequences of publishing estimates of the effect on the UK of a reduction in the UK's carbon dioxide emissions by 42 per cent. by 2020. [324727]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* My right hon. Friend has regular meetings with my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary at which various topics are discussed.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how often his Department plans to assess the effectiveness of eligible carbon emissions reduction target measures in reducing emissions; and if he will make a statement. [324867]

Joan Ruddock: The supplier obligation (now termed the carbon emissions reduction target) has been set over three year cycles to allow Government to evolve the scheme so that it only pulls through products with the most potential to provide for household sector carbon emissions reductions. An independent assessment is commissioned at the end of each three year phase, building on the cost-benefit assessment undertaken and published at the launch of each scheme. Independent analysis of the three year supplier obligation scheme ending March 2008 showed it to have been extremely effective in delivery—that for every £1 added onto GB household bills to pay for the obligation, benefits equate to an average saving of £9 per household bill over the lifetime of the measures. The carbon emissions reduction target which ends in March 2011, is also believed to be highly cost-effective. We know for instance, that insulation measures make up over 60 per cent. of savings to target—equivalent to some four million households receiving insulation measures.

Carbon Sequestration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made in the competition to build a commercial scale carbon capture and storage power plant; and if he will make a statement. [325262]

Mr. Kidney: On 12 March we announced that funding has been awarded to E.on and Scottish Power to support Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) studies as part of the competition to build a commercial scale carbon capture and storage demonstration plant. The studies will be completed within 12 months, after which the winner will be selected.

Climate Change: Costs

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the net cost to the Exchequer of the Government's Climate Change Agreements in each of the last five years. [320513]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the cost to the Exchequer of the Government's Climate Change Agreements were published in Table 7, of the 2009 pre-Budget report, 'Tax Ready Reckoner', as follows:

CCA net cost estimates

Fiscal year	*£ million*
2006-07	350
2007-08	350
2008-09	280

Estimates of costs associated with Climate Change Agreement were not published prior to 2006-07.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what conditions are attached to the fund committed by the UK to help flight climate change by tackling deforestation between 2010 and 2012 and announced at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit; how the fund will be administered; and whether the fund will be subject to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change guidelines. [324628]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* At Copenhagen my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced that the UK would provide £300 million in 2010-12 to help tackle deforestation, as a contribution to the $3.5 billion committed by donors and representing 20 per cent. of the UK's £1.5 billion 'fast start' finance. This funding will go to developing countries where there are the best opportunities for tackling emissions from deforestation in ways which also reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. The support will be delivered through multilateral funds (e.g. Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, Forest Investment Programme, Congo Basin Forest Initiative) and bilateral programmes. The UNFCCC guidelines are still under consideration. The UK will seek to apply best practice and take account of progress in the climate negotiations.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many smoking shelters have been built for his Department's staff in the last five years; and at what cost. [324346]

Joan Ruddock: No smoking shelters have been built for DECC staff since this Department's inception in October 2008.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324437]

Joan Ruddock: Since its inception in October 2008, this Department has not spent anything on rooms for staff leisure.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 61W, on departmental information officers, what the *(a)* job title, *(b)* division and *(c)* responsibilities are of each of the embedded communicators. [324307]

Joan Ruddock: The job titles, divisions and responsibilities for each of the 11 embedded communicators in the Department are set out in the following table.

Division	*Job title*	*Responsibilities*
Climate, Energy, Science and Analysis	Senior Scientific Officer	Advising on climate science communications as required, including briefings, cross-governmental coordination, and relationships with external organisations on communicating science.
Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Higher Executive Officer	Ensuring the consultation on draft National Policy Statements for Energy Infrastructure was thorough and effective; running public events and stakeholder workshops relating to the consultation; assisting members of the public with any queries and managing the consultation website.
Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Higher Executive Officer	Cross-cutting ministerial briefing and speeches.
International Climate Change	Higher Executive Officer	Coordinating cross-Government international climate change communications, including managing the Act On Copenhagen website and the international climate change area of the DECC website.
International Climate Change	Higher Executive Officer	Leading on the Division's engagement with youth, science and health stakeholder groups.
International Climate Change	Grade 7	Co-ordinating UK stakeholder engagement on international climate change, including with business and trade unions.
International Climate Change	Grade 6	Leading the Division's stakeholder engagement team, including use of cross-Government digital diplomacy.
International Climate Change	Higher Executive Officer	Engaging with NGOs, faith, culture and community groups on international climate change.
Office for Nuclear Development	Grade 6	Provision of communications advice to the Nuclear Unit, ministerial briefing and speech writing, answering correspondence, liaising with Press Office and engaging with stakeholders.
Office for Nuclear Development	Grade 7	Provision of communications advice to the Nuclear Unit, ministerial briefing and speech writing, answering correspondence, liaising with Press Office and engaging with stakeholders.

Division	Job title	Responsibilities
Office of Renewable Energy Deployment	Higher Executive Officer	Conducting stakeholder engagement and communications around the Severn tidal power feasibility study.

Departmental Legal Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent in *(a)* legal fees and *(b)* compensation on legal cases concerning remuneration of its employees since it was established. [322058]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has spent nothing on such legal fees or compensation.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of his Department and its predecessors managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313844]

Joan Ruddock: The term 'managed out' is not used within the civil service, so we have considered this question as applying to redundancies.

DECC does not record whether staff who have been made redundant have remained working in the public sector.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department were since its inception; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose of each such event was. [324668]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has not hosted any hospitality events.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to questions in the formulation if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997 could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323862]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has implemented policies to address greenhouse gas emissions, fuel poverty, the low carbon economy and energy security. The Department does not have readily-available data at the constituency level for the impact of these policies with the exception of Warm Front, for which data have been provided. This practical limitation means that preparing an estimate at the constituency level or a similar level of regional disaggregation would incur disproportionate costs above the £800 limit for answering a parliamentary question.

Warm Front scheme

The Warm Front Scheme is designed to tackle fuel poverty. The scheme provides grants for households on qualifying income and disability related benefits to install a range of insulation and heating measures in their homes. Information is available from eaga, the scheme manager, on a constituency level. During the period 1 June 2000 to 31 January 2010 the Scheme has assisted 2,557 households in the Eddisbury constituency.

Regional greenhouse gas emissions

Climate change mitigation needs to be tackled at both national and local levels. Estimates of carbon dioxide emissions at local authority level are produced annually by AEA on behalf of DECC and are published as national statistics at the following link:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change_gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2007_local/2007_local.aspx

There are practical considerations which mean that emissions data are not calculated at a constituency-level.

Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT)

The CERT is set at a Great Britain-wide level. Given the terms of the legislation, Government have no existing powers to require energy suppliers to report where they have installed measures. However, DECC is working with energy suppliers and the Energy Saving Trust with the aim of being able to report on the number of CERT measures professionally installed at a constituency level in future.

Other policies

A number of DECC's policies operate at the national rather than local level, which means that data at a constituency level is not gathered. For example, national policy statements on energy infrastructure will lead to faster and fairer planning across the country and a diverse low carbon energy mix.

In addition, some policies are not yet fully operational or are too new for their effect to be measured. The Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) began on 1 September 2009 and there are currently six live CESP schemes, one in Walsall, one in Bristol and four in Birmingham. We expect around 100 schemes nationally over the next three years. Ofgem is due to provide its first statutory CESP progress report to the Secretary of State on 1 May 2010. The feed-in tariff and renewable heat incentive 'clean energy cashback' schemes will begin on April 2010 and April 2011 respectively.

Energy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 5.4, page 44 of his Department's report on Energy Market Assessment of 24 March 2010, what criteria will be used to identify interested parties with which to enter into a dialogue in the next stage of consultation. [325160]

Mr. Kidney: The Department for Energy and Climate Change has ongoing dialogue with a wide range of groups ranging from energy investors, the regulatory community, economic and strategy consultancies, green NGOs, consumer groups, the Committee on Climate Change and others.

The Department will discuss the energy market assessment with organisations from across this spectrum.

Energy Supply

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what response he plans to make to the Project Discovery report published by Ofgem on 3 February 2010. [325263]

Mr. Kidney: On 12 March we announced that funding has been awarded to E.on and Scottish Power to support Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) studies as part of the competition to build a commercial scale carbon capture and storage demonstration plant. The studies will be completed within 12 months, after which the winner will be selected.

Energy: Billing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanisms will be used to ensure that energy suppliers do not charge their customers more than the cost of what they pay towards meeting their Carbon Emissions Reduction Target obligations onto the consumer; and if he will make a statement. [324866]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's 'Warm Homes, Greener Homes' strategy published in early March set out the importance of greater transparency of energy bills, including around cost information. We continue to develop the detail of this post 2013 energy company obligation, and will pursue new powers as necessary.

Energy: Buildings

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association homes in City of York constituency have had energy efficiency improvements in each of the last five years; and what the average cost per dwelling to the public purse of those improvements was. [324219]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have set the Decent Homes Standard, whereby social landlords are challenged to make homes warm and weather proof, with modern facilities. The following table shows the number of local authority homes in the City of York that have had energy efficiency improvements in the last five years and the total cost of these improvements.

Number of LA dwellings that had central heating, windows and insulation installed, and associated expenditure, City of York, 2005-09

	Central Heating		Windows		Insulation	
	Dwellings	Expenditure (£000)	Dwellings	Expenditure (£000)	Dwellings	Expenditure (£000)
2005	488	995	685	769	24	3
2006	671	1,545	220	550	9	1
2007	685	2,797	45	71	—	—
2008	918	2,654	—	—	178	26
2009	573	1,496	166	267	117	21

Source: Annual returns to Communities and Local Government.

It is not possible to derive average costs per dwelling since not all dwellings will have had all three elements of works carried out. The Government do not collect data about housing association expenditure.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost per kilogram of carbon dioxide saved for the different types of commercially available domestic energy efficient technologies, including circulator pumps; and if he will make a statement. [324214]

Joan Ruddock: This question was considered in the recent CERT extension impact assessment, which can be accessed via the link provided[1]. The cost per kilogram of carbon dioxide saved can be determined for a range of technologies from the information provided in tables 1 and 2. The cost per kilogram can be determined by dividing the total cost for the measure, shown in table 2, by the relevant life time carbon dioxide savings shown in table 1 (multiply the figures shown in table 1 by 1,000 to obtain kilograms of carbon dioxide). The Department does not hold this information for circulator pumps.

[1] This information was extracted from pages 55 and 56 of die Impact Assessment for the CERT consultation and can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cert_ext/cert_ext.aspx

Table 1: Lifetime CO_2 saving score per measure, in the priority and non-priority groups

	Carbon saving measure	Lifetime (years)	Lifetime CO_2 savings per measure tCO_2 (lifetime)	
			PG	Non-PG
Insulation	Cavity wall insulation	40	23.74	26.34
	Loft insulation professional (from < 60mm)	40	14.70	18.10
	Loft insulation professional (from > 60mm)	40	4.34	5.34
	Loft insulation (DIY)	40	9.40	11.58
	SWI external	30	62.02	68.83

Table 1: Lifetime CO_2 saving score per measure, in the priority and non-priority groups

	Carbon saving measure	Lifetime (years)	Lifetime CO_2 savings per measure tCO_2 (lifetime) PG	Non-PG
	SWI internal	30	58.64	65.08
	Insulated wallpaper	30	20.17	22.38
	Tank insulation—top-up	10	1.98	1.98
	Glazing E to C rated	20	1.52	1.72
	Draughtproofing	20	2.32	2.86
Heating	A/B rated boilers (exceptions)	12	3.95	4.47
	Fuel switching	20	74.97	84.94
	Heating controls—upgrade with boiler	12	0.38	0.44
	Heating controls—extra	12	3.09	3.57
	Wood pellet stoves (secondary)	20	11.10	12.58
	Log burning stoves	20	3.99	4.52
	Wood pellet boilers (primary)	20	95.84	108.60
	Solar water heater ($4m^2$)	25	8.14	8.14
	Ground source heat pumps	40	95.97	108.75
	Air source heat pumps	15	42.57	48.23
	Wood chip CHP	30	96.48	107.07
	Community GSHP	40	20.42	22.66
	Community heating to wood chip	30	106.41	118.08
	Replacement of G rated boilers	6	5.44	6.17
Lighting	CFLs—retail	8	0.05	0.05
	Efficient halogens	6.51	0.02	0.02
	LEDs	18	0.14	0.14
Appliances	A rated cold appliances	[1]		
	A rated wet appliances	[1]		
	iDTVs	[1]		
	PC mains panels	5	0.15	0.16
	Energy saving kettles	5	0.04	0.04
	LNBs	7	0.04	0.04
	A++ cold appliances	12	0.58	0.58
	A++ wet appliances	12	0.11	0.11
Microgen	Photovoltaic panels (2.5 kWp)	25	22.78	22.78
	micro Wind (1 kWp, 10 per cent. LF)	10	3.78	3.78
	micro Hydro (0.7 kWp, 50 per cent. LF)	20	26.44	26.44
	Mini-wind 5 kW, 20 per cent. LF	22.5	84.98	84.98
	mCHP (80 per cent. heat, 15 per cent. elec)	15	2.91	3.30
Other	RTDs	15	0.996	0.996
	Advice only	7.5	0.6675	0.6675

[1] No longer eligible

Table 2: Assumed costs of measures

£

	Carbon saving measure	Basic installation cost All	PG	non-PG	Administration cost PG	non-PG	Total cost PG	non-PG
Insulation	Cavity wall insulation	380	356	395	87	71	443	466
	Loft insulation professional (from < 60mm)	286	268	297	70	57	338	355
	Loft insulation professional (from > 60mm)	286	268	297	70	57	338	355
	Loft insulation (DIY)	120	107	128	32	28	138	157
	SWI external	8,500	7,969	8,830	293	225	8,262	9,054
	SWI internal	5,100	4,781	5,298	273	210	5,054	5,508
	Insulated wallpaper	3,700	3,469	3,843	256	198	3,725	4,042

Table 2: Assumed costs of measures

£

	Carbon saving measure	Basic installation cost			Administration cost		Total cost	
		All	PG	non-PG	PG	non-PG	PG	non-PG
	Tank insulation—top-up	14	14	14	4	3	18	17
	Glazing E to C rated	212	199	220	55	45	253	265
	Draughtproofing	101	94	105	28	24	123	128
Heating	A/B rated boilers (exceptions)	212	209	214	57	44	266	258
	Fuel switching	2,014	1,888	2,092	216	169	2,104	2,261
	Heating controls—upgrade with boiler	90	84	94	26	21	110	115
	Heating controls—extra	148	139	154	40	33	179	188
	Wood pellet stoves (secondary)	1,417	1,399	1,428	192	147	1,592	1,575
	Log burning stoves	1,000	988	1,008	164	125	1,151	1,133
	Wood pellet boilers (primary)	7,200	7,110	7,256	289	220	7,399	7,476
	Solar water heater (4m²)	3,500	3,500	3,500	257	194	3,757	3,694
	Ground source heat pumps	11,360	10,295	12,021	301	231	10,596	12,252
	Air source heat pumps	5,844	5,771	5,889	281	214	6,052	6,103
	Wood chip CHP	9,281	9,165	9,353	298	226	9,463	9,579
	Community GSHP	4,250	4,197	4,283	267	203	4,463	4,486
	Community heating to wood chip	350	346	353	85	65	430	418
	Replacement of G rated boilers	2,500	2,500	2,500	236	179	2,736	2,679
Lighting	CFLs—retail	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.36	0.27	1.46	1.37
	Efficient halogens	2.50	2.50	2.50	0.82	0.62	3.32	3.12
	LEDs	8.00	7.00	8.62	2.29	2.14	9.29	10.76
Appliances	A rated cold appliances	[1]						
	A rated wet appliances	[1]						
	iDTVs	[1]						
	PC mains panels	25	25	25	8	6	33	31
	Energy saving kettles	17	17	17	6	4	23	21
	LNBs	10	10	10	3	2	13	12
	A++ cold appliances	100	100	100	30	23	130	123
	A++ wet appliances	100	100	100	30	23	130	123
Microgen	Photovoltaic panels (2.5 kWp)	6,338	6,338	6,338	285	216	6,623	6,553
	Micro wind (1 kWp, 10 per cent. LF)	3,200	3,200	3,200	251	190	3,451	3,390
	Micro hydro (0.7 kWp, 50 per cent. LF)	1,890	1,890	1,890	216	163	2,106	2,053
	Mini-wind 5 kW, 20 per cent. LF	21,000	21,000	21,000	315	239	21,315	21,239
	mCHP (80 per cent. heat, 15 per cent. elec)	600	563	623	119	96	681	719
Other	RTDs	20	20	20	6	5	26	25
	Advice only	35	35	35	11	8	46	43

[1] No longer eligible

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average payback period is for the different types of commercially available domestic energy efficient technologies, including circulator pumps; and if he will make a statement. [324215]

Joan Ruddock: Information on payback periods for some technologies under the CERT regime is shown in the following table. Savings figures are approximate and are based on a typical three-bed semi-detached home. Installed costs are not the full economic cost of the work but incorporate a level of subsidy provided by suppliers under the CERT programme.

Measure	Annual saving (£/yr)	Installed cost	Installed payback	Emissions savings (kgCO2/yr)
Loft Insulation (0-270mm)	Around £150	Around £250	~2 yrs	750
Loft Insulation (50-270mm)	Around £45	Around £250	~6 yrs	200
Cavity Wall Insulation	Around £115	Around £250	~2 yrs	630

Measure	Annual saving (£/yr)	Installed cost	Installed payback	Emissions savings (kgCO2/yr)
Internal wall insulation	Around £380	£5,500 - £8,500	~20 yrs	2100
External wall insulation	Around £400	£10,500 - £14,500	~25 yrs	2200
Draught proofing	Around £25	Around £200	~8 yrs	130
Floor insulation	Around £60	Around £500	~8 yrs	320
Hot water tank jacket	Around £35	Around £50	~1 yrs	200
Gas Boiler (replacing G rated with A rated)	Around £190	Around £2500	~13 yrs	1000

Information available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cert_ext/cert_ext.aspx

The actual payback period is a function of the cost of the technology, the cost of installation, the actual number of running hours per year and the cost of the fuel saved per year. As these variables are influenced by commercial considerations, which are different for each technology, and as each installation is bespoke, the actual payback period will vary considerably.

Circulator pumps are consumers of energy, though some operate more efficiently than others, particularly those that can modulate their output to match the load. We do not have the information on the payback periods for circulator pumps.

Energy: Prices

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the cost per unit to the customer of domestic gas and electricity in each year from 2010 to 2020. [325264]

Mr. Kidney: The Department does not make forecasts of gas and electricity retail prices since the Government do not take a view of what prices will be set in competitive markets.

However, the Department uses a range of assumptions of the future wholesale prices of fossil fuels in the DECC energy model representing different scenarios for future wholesale prices. The most recent published results of the DECC model projections including retail prices were published with the Low Carbon Transition Plan:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/media/viewfile.ashx?filepath=statistics/proJections/1_20090715101435_e_@@_tablee.xls&filetype=4

A copy of the Low Carbon Transition Plan projections will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Environment Protection: Job Creation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many green jobs have been created in each constituency since June 2007. [324850]

Joan Ruddock: The Government do not collate such data at a constituency level.

Government-commissioned research indicates that, in 2008-09, employment in the UK Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) sector was approximately 910,000. This research includes regional level data and is available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/Policies/business-sectors/low-carbon-business-opportunities/market-intelligence

Natural Gas: Storage

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to prohibit exports of gas in circumstances in which gas is also being removed from storage in the UK. [318582]

Mr. Kidney: No. One of the strengths of the British gas market—demonstrated in the coldest winter for some 30 years—is the resilience provided by its diverse and over-sized gas supply infrastructure. Arbitrarily constraining the use of one kind of supply infrastructure could have harmful unintended consequences—for example, in forcing the gas market to use more expensive supplies from time to time, and, in the longer term, in damaging the commercial incentives to construct gas supply infrastructure. Ultimately this could mean higher prices, and less reliable supplies, for consumers.

Power Stations: Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the level of carbon emissions from power stations in the latest period for which figures are available. [325285]

Joan Ruddock: The provisional 2009 GHG national statistics released on 25 March 2010 show that emissions of CO_2 from power stations were 150.5MtCO_2.

For those power station emissions covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) operators must submit verified emissions data to the regulators for 2009 by 31 March 2010. In 2008 the UK power sector in the EU ETS emitted 172.4MtCO_2. The 2009 data submitted by operators will be available on the European Commission website from early April 2010 and a summary report of checked UK data will be published later in the year.

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources. [325245]

Mr. Kidney: The latest estimate was published in the 2009 edition of the Digest of UK Energy Statistics, and relates to the calendar year 2008. Based on the agreed methodology used to monitor the EU Renewable Energy Directive, 2.3 per cent. of energy was derived from renewable sources during 2008. The 2009 estimate will be published in the 2010 edition of the Digest of UK Energy Statistics.

Additionally, provisional 2009 data on electricity generation were published in the March 2010 edition of Energy Trends. This showed that when excluding an estimate for non-bio degradable waste use, around 6.6 per cent. of electricity was generated from renewable sources in 2009.

Sellafield

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made in the replacement of the highly active storage tanks at Sellafield. [325023]

Mr. Kidney: The Replacement Highly Active Storage Tank project has completed a detailed optioneering process to a point where a single solution has been selected. As part of this stage a preliminary safety case, which has been subject to regulatory assessment, has been prepared and an outline design has been completed and approved. Replacement tanks are forecast to commence active commissioning in 2018.

Wind Power

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has undertaken research into the comparative effectiveness of wind turbines and fossil fuel generation in producing electricity; and if he will make a statement. [320976]

Mr. Kidney: The usual approach of assessing the effectiveness of different electricity generation technologies is to use the levelised cost of generating one megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity.

The analysis underpinning Renewable Energy Strategy, published in July 2009, used assumptions on the generating costs and wider impacts of wind generation. Full details of which are set out in Element (2009) and Redpoint/ Trilemma (2009), which are available on the DECC website.

Table 1: Levelised cost estimates for wind generation plant

Technology	*Levelised cost (£/MWh)*
Wind generation plant	
Onshore wind	74-103
Offshore wind	112-131

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) have published estimated levelised costs (£/MWh, in 2008 prices) associated with 1 MWh of electricity generated, for their December 2008 report:

http://www.theccc.org.uk/pdf/TSO-ClimateChange.pdf

Their analysis for fossil fuel plant is set out in table 2 and include construction, operation and maintenance costs and the cost of carbon allowances (EU ETS).

Table 2: Levelised cost estimates for fossil fuel generation plant

Technology	*Levelised cost (£/MWh)*
Coal-fired plant	
Coal (pulverised fuel)—central fuel	54
Gas-fired plant	
CCGT—central fuel	53

It should be noted that the estimates of levelised costs for different types of electricity generation are highly sensitive to the assumptions used for capital costs, fuel and EU ETS allowance prices, operating costs, load factor, and other drivers. In reality, there are large uncertainties and ranges around these figures.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advantage West Midlands

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much Advantage West Midlands has allocated to the West Midlands since the agency's creation. [322260]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Advantage West Midlands spent £2,177 million grant-in-aid from 1999-2000 to 2008-2009 and this has been put to very good use in the region. For example;

Business Link West Midlands (funded by AWM) assisted 139,000 regional businesses and helped create 6,500 business start ups during 2008/09.

Since 1999, when we created the RDAs, AWM has helped attract 880 inward investments resulting in safeguarding or creating 138,500 jobs in the process.

Since 2002 the West Midlands Manufacturing Advisory Service has helped more than 5000 manufacturing companies to improve efficiencies and in the process helped add £150 million to their turnover.

Apprentices: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Government funded apprenticeship places were available for young people in North West Cambridgeshire constituency in each of the last five years. [324754]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number of Apprenticeship starts in North-West Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency for learners aged under 19, from academic year 2004/05 to 2008/09.

Table 1: Apprenticeship Programme starts in North-West Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency by under 19 year olds, 2004/05 to 2008/09

	North-West Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency
2004/05	250
2005/06	170
2006/07	210
2007/08	210
2008/09	190

Notes:
1. Figures for North-West Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are based upon home postcode of the learner.
3. Figures are based on age at start of programme. Figures include learners aged 16 to 18-years-old and a small number of under 16s.
4. Figures include Apprenticeships, Advanced Apprenticeships and Higher Level Apprenticeships.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of Apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 25 March 2010:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrmar10

Bankruptcy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many individuals resident in each constituency *(a)* in total and *(b)* aged over 65 years were subject to a bankruptcy order in each quarter between Quarter 2 of 1997 and Quarter 4 of 2009. [324486]

Ian Lucas: Statistics for bankruptcy orders in England and Wales broken down by constituency and age are currently available on an annual basis only and from 2000 to 2008. Sub-national figures for 2009 will be published by the Insolvency Service later in 2010.

The table exceeds the size that can be incorporated within the answer and so will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Business Link: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Birmingham had received a free health check from Business Link on the latest date for which figures are available. [325167]

Ms Rosie Winterton: 2,848 businesses in Birmingham have received a health check from Business Link West Midlands since the scheme was introduced in October 2008. Of these, 2,058 were firms which employ nine staff or less; a further 579 were businesses with between 10 and 49 staff.

Business: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many guarantees for each type of asset have been provided under his Department's Working Capital Scheme in each constituency. [324488]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the Working Capital Scheme the Department has provided to two banks £2.2 billion of guarantees on portfolios of commercial loans to free up regulatory capital for new bank lending to UK companies. The scheme does not provide guarantees on assets, and the loan portfolios do not identify parliamentary constituencies.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding has been provided under his Department's Capital for Enterprise Fund in each constituency. [324489]

Ms Rosie Winterton: To date the appointed fund managers of the Capital for Enterprise Fund have made offers totalling £96.7 million to 65 businesses. 26 investments have been made totalling £36.5 million. I am not providing a breakdown by parliamentary constituency as this could make it possible to identify the individual companies that have received support.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what guarantees have been provided under his Department's Trade Credit Insurance Scheme in each constituency. [324490]

Ms Rosie Winterton: At scheme closure on 31 December 2009, 109 policies had been written under the scheme to a value of £18,583,865. This is broken down by constituency as follows:

Constituency	*Number of policies*	*Value of policies (£)*
Altrincham and Sale West	1	50,000
Amber Valley	1	15,000
Beaconsfield	1	10,000
Belfast South	1	84,865
Birkenhead	2	600,000
Birmingham, Ladywood	3	302,000
Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath	2	482,000
Bolton South East	1	750,000
Bradford North	1	90,000
Bristol West	3	83,000
Broxbourne	4	90,000
Burnley	1	20,000
Cannock Chase	1	40,000
Chipping Barnet	1	150,000
Cities of London and Westminster	2	470,000
Cleethorpes	2	100,000
Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill	1	20,000
East Hampshire	1	100,000
East Londonderry	2	240,000
Eccles	1	100,000
Elmet	1	20,000
Exeter	1	60,000
Faversham and Mid Kent	1	35,000
Folkestone and Hythe	1	50,000
Harlow	1	60,000
Heywood and Middleton	2	125,000
Holborn and St. Pancras	2	2,875,000
Huntingdon	1	40,000
Islwyn	2	44,000
Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle	1	75,000
Luton South	1	100,000
Manchester, Blackley	2	175,000
Mid Ulster	1	15,000
Middlesbrough	1	900,000
Mole Valley	1	100,000
Neath	1	100,000
Normanton	4	446,000
North Devon	1	200,000
North East Milton Keynes	2	201,000
North Warwickshire	1	200,000
Northampton South	3	2,000,000
Nuneaton	1	50,000
Ochil and South Perthshire	1	100,000
Reading West	3	3,000,000
Redcar	1	50,000
Richmond Park	4	402,000
Saffron Walden	1	30,000
Scunthorpe	2	200,000
Sheffield, Attercliffe	2	605,000
Sherwood	1	25,000
Shipley	1	176,000
South Derbyshire	1	300,000
Stirling	1	25,000
Stourbridge	1	15,000
Sutton and Cheam	3	203,000
Telford	2	35,000
Tyne Bridge	1	10,500
Vale of York	4	120,000
Walsall South	3	79,500
Wansdyke	1	150,000
Welwyn Hatfield	1	70,000

Constituency	Number of policies	Value of policies (£)
West Bromwich West	2	87,500
Woking	2	675,000
Wokingham	3	162,500
Wolverhampton North East	1	50,000
Wolverhampton South West	2	275,000
Wyre Forest	1	50,000
	109	18,586,865

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for funding under the Small Firms Guarantee scheme have been received by small firms based in *(a)* Reading East constituency, *(b)* Berkshire and *(c)* the South East in each of the last five years. [324575]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the Small Firms Loan Guarantee the number of loans made to small firms based in the Reading, East constituency, the county of Berkshire, and the south-east region in each year from 2006 are as follows:

	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Reading, East	7	7	6	1	21
Berkshire	67	40	42	9	158
South East	410	377	304	50	1141

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee replaced the Small Firms Loan Guarantee in January 2009.

Businesses would apply for a loan from any one of the participating accredited lenders who would assess which form of lending, including a SFLG backed loan, was most appropriate. We do not hold figures for those businesses which were instead offered a normal commercial loan, or were rejected for failing to meet the lender's commercial criteria.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many grants to small firms based in *(a)* Reading East constituency and *(b)* Berkshire under the Small Firms Local Guarantee scheme were between (i) £5,000 and £20,000, (ii) £20,001 and £50,000, (iii) £50,001 and £100,000, (iv) £100,001 and £150,000, (v) £150,001 and £200,000 and (vi) £200,001 and £250,000 in each of the last five years. [324576]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Small Firms Loan Guarantee (SFLG) data in the form requested are only available from December 2005. The Enterprise Finance Guarantee replaced the Small Firms Loan Guarantee in January 2009.

The breakdown of the number of loans to small businesses based in the Reading East constituency, and the county of Berkshire in the amounts specified in each full year from 2006 are as follows:

Reading East Constituency

	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Up to £20,000	1	0	1	0	2
£20,001 to £50,000	3	3	1	0	7
£50,001 to £100,000	2	3	2	1	8
£100,001 to £150,000	0	0	0	0	0
£150,001 to £200,000	1	0	1	0	2
£200,001 to £250,000	0	1	1	0	2
Total	7	7	6	1	21

Berkshire

	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Up to £20,000	5	2	5	1	13
£20,001 to £50,000	22	16	18	4	60
£50,001 to £100,000	22	14	12	1	49
£100,001 to £150,000	14	6	3	1	24
£150,001 to £200,000	3	0	2	2	7
£200,001 to £250,000	1	2	2	0	5
Total	67	40	42	9	158

Business: Southend-on-Sea

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase investment in industry in Southend-on-Sea; and if he will make a statement. [324387]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) works with local and regional partners to ensure effective investment in Southend-on-Sea and support the business community there. EEDA has committed to invest a further £2.485 million over the coming financial year to further expand the facilities at the university of Essex and encourage the growth of the digital technology sector in Southend. This is in addition to essential business support services like Business Link, support for inward investment and the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS), which are available to businesses in the area.

Career Development Loans

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* cash cost and *(b)* resource cost is of career development loans in England for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [324993]

Mr. Lammy: On 1 July 2009, Government began an enhanced version of Career Development Loans (CDLs) called Professional and Career Development Loans (PCDLs). For 2009-10, the cost of administering these programmes across the UK is expected to be £21.8 million. In 2010-11, as more loans are delivered, the programme is expected to cost around £30 million. England accounts for around 90 per cent. of the PCDL market.

These programme costs cover: interest payments made by Government to support the individual while in learning; liability as a result of defaulted repayments; administration costs associated with the devolved administrations and of small-value loans; and marketing.

Final costs are also dependent on a number of other factors, including the Bank of England base rate and the level of take-up of loans offered.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its agencies have spent on rooms for staff leisure since it was established. [324431]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has not spent anything to date on rooms for staff leisure since its inception in June 2009.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 22 March 2010, UIN 324431, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has not spent any money on rooms for staff leisure since the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was established in June 2009.

Letter from John Alty, dated 24 March 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 22nd March 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Prior to 5 June 2009, when the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was formed, the Intellectual Property Office set aside some rooms for staff leisure. However, since that date the IPO has not incurred any expenditure on rooms for staff leisure other than heating, lighting etc.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated March 2010:

The Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much his Department and its agencies have spent on rooms for staff leisure since it was established.

The Insolvency Service does not have specific rooms set aside for leisure purposes within any of its offices. The Insolvency Service does, however, provide in each of its offices, at least one multi-purpose area for staff to utilise for rest periods or work related meetings.

The Insolvency service was established in 1990 but there are records of a limited number of previous office premises that offered a specific room for leisure purposes, retrieving and collating the information required would incur a disproportionate cost and this information has not been supplied.

Letter from Peter Mason,, dated 30 March 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 22 March 2010 reference 2009/1821 to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how much his Department and its agencies have spent on rooms for staff leisure since it was established.

The NMO has spent a total of £180.33 on rooms for staff leisure. This was for a fridge (£159.99) and a toaster (£20.34).

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessor spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324670]

Mr. McFadden: Over the last five financial years, this Department and its predecessors have spent the following amounts on interior design in relation to office refurbishments:

	£
2005/06	0
2006/07	0
2007/08	65,400
2008/09	52,900
2009/10	376,800

The figures above are inclusive of VAT. The figure for 2009/10 includes costs associated with the major refurbishment of our main ministerial building at 1 Victoria street, enabling the Department to vacate Kingsgate house, London, which currently costs £10 million per annum to run, when the lease on this building expires in March 2012.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324983]

Mr. McFadden: The Department is currently in the process of implementing a project to install voltage reduction equipment at its 1 Victoria Street HQ building and this work will be completed towards the end of 2010.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 42 month period for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in financial year 1996-97, expressed in current prices. [324819]

Mr. McFadden: The total staff costs for press office staff in the financial year 2009/10, up to the end of February 2010, are £1,350,000. This includes staff costs for press officers and support staff working in the press office. A breakdown of costs just for press officers and excluding non-press officers could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

The number of press officers currently at BIS is 29. This combines the press offices from the former BERR and former DIUS. The press office co-ordinates all the media handling for the Department's current 10 Ministers and the Government Chief Scientific Adviser.

The number of press officers in 1997 was 20. The staff costs are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department has allocated for bonuses for staff in 2009-10. [306391]

Mr. McFadden: An element of the BIS overall pay award for staff below the SCS is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form

part of the pay award. There are two types of award: in-year bonuses, which consist of special individual performance awards and non-pay rewards that recognise strong performance in particularly demanding tasks for situations. Staff in receipt of a special bonus may also receive an annual performance award. Annual performance awards are paid to members of staff who receive a highly successful performance rating.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

Performance awards for the SCS are part of the pay system across the whole senior civil service, and are used to reward high performance sustained throughout the year, based on judgments of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. The performance related pay scheme is designed to help drive high performance and support better public service delivery. Performance awards are non-consolidated and non pensionable. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

BIS was formed through a MOG change that occurred in June 2009. The Department was created by merging the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). Due to the timing of the MOG change it was decided that both Departments would continue with separate remits for 2009-10 before producing a single BIS remit for 2010-11. The two former Departments have allocated the following amounts of money for performance awards in 2009-10:

Department	*Amount of money allocated for "in year" performance awards*	*Amount of money allocated for annual performance awards*	*Total amount of money allocated for performance awards in 2009-10*
BERR	427,570	931,300	1,358,878
DIUS	Currently unavailable	280,756	n/a

Notes:
1. The data included covers all staff below the SCS.
2. For the SCS the Senior Salaries Review Body determines the level of expenditure to cover bonuses.
3. The DIUS data for the "in year" performance award budget is currently unavailable as these are held locally at an individual group level. The "in year" performance bonuses that were awarded in 2008-09 totalled £13,855.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 2003. [306489]

Mr. McFadden: An element of the BIS overall pay award for staff below the SCS is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award. There are two types of award: in-year bonuses, which consist of special individual performance awards and non-pay rewards that recognise strong performance in particularly demanding tasks for situations. Staff in receipt of a special bonus may also receive an annual performance award. Annual performance awards are paid to members of staff who receive a highly successful performance rating.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

Performance awards for the SCS are part of the pay system across the whole senior civil service, and are used to reward high performance sustained throughout the year, based on judgements of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers.

The performance related pay scheme is designed to help drive high performance and support better public service delivery. Performance awards are non-consolidated and non pensionable. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

BIS was formed through a Machinery of Government change that occurred in June 2009. The department was created by merging The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). DIUS and BERR were themselves created as part of a Machinery of Government Change in June 2007. This means that BIS in its current format did not exist to award performance awards in previous years. The information as follows has been drawn from various data sources and provides details for both of the former departments that were merged to create BIS.

£

Financial year	*BERR*	*DIUS*
2008-09	2,827,223	473,026
2007-08	2,958,888	207,041
2006-07	3,023,849	[1]—
2005-06	2,330,532	[1]—
2004-05	2,061,772	[1]—
2003-04	2,026,477	[1]—

[1] DIUS was created by a MOG change that occurred in June 2007 and did not exist before this date. The majority of annual bonuses paid to staff in 2007/08 were issued by the departments that staff had transferred from.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent of first-class rail travel for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade in his Department in the last 12 months. [325134]

Mr. McFadden: Following a machinery of government change the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was formed in June 2009. The following figures include former BERR and DIUS before the merger. The amount spent on first class rail travel for the period March 2009-February 2010 was:

Rail: £643,890—figures include overseas rail travel

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. The Department does not hold separate records of the travel undertaken by Ministers as opposed to those undertaken by civil servants, to provide this information would entail disproportionate costs.

Cabinet Office provides an annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008/09 list was published on 16 July 2009 and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many grade 2 civil servants are employed in his Department. [324954]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* Grade 2 as a description of staff level is no longer in general use. Senior civil servants in similar sized roles are now referred to as being in pay band 3 and usually have the job title of director general. BIS currently has 11.9 full-time equivalents at this level.

Enterprise Europe Networks

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in which Government Office regions regional Enterprise Europe Networks have been established; and what funding *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Business Links and *(c)* regional development agencies have provided to such networks. [323051]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) consortia cover all Government office regions. This includes a joint consortium for East and West Midlands.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has not directly funded the network. In three regions EENs have received funding totalling £55,437 from UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). BIS, along with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is a parent Department of UKTI.

No funding has been provided to the EEN by Business Links.

Six regional development agencies (RDAs) have provided funding for the UK EEN totalling £2,212,485.

Housing: Conferences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent by the *(a)* South East, *(b)* West Midlands and *(c)* North West Development Agency on accreditation for the MIPIM International Property conference in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) 2009 and (iv) 2010 to date. [323250]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The RDAs attend the MIPIM International Property conference to attract inward investment to the regions and to showcase land that is available for development in the regions. The following table shows the amounts spent by AWM, NWDA and SEEDA on accreditation:

Accreditation costs (individual registration costs) (£)

RDA	*2010*	*2009*	*2008*	*2007*
AWM	2,575	2,488	3,980	3,016
NWDA	[1]1,130	1,015	None	None
SEEDA	2,500	1,491	4,906	6,556

[1] Approx. Expected costs—invoice not received as yet.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representatives of the East Midlands Development Agency attended the MIPIM International Property conference in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [323252]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is as follows.

	Number of emda staff attending
2007	6
2008	4
2009	1

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representatives of the North West Development Agency attended the MIPIM International Property Conference in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [323253]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is as follows:

2007: No attendance from NWDA

2008: No attendance from NWDA

2009: One person from NWDA attended.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representatives of the South East Development Agency attended the MIPIM International Property Conference in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [323254]

Ms Rosie Winterton: SEEDA attends MIPIM to attract inward investment to the region and to showcase land that is available for development in the South East.

	Number of representatives
2007	20
2008	12
2009	2

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent by the South East Development Agency on *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation for representatives attending the MIPIM International Property Conference in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009. [323255]

Ms Rosie Winterton: SEEDA attends MIPIM to attract inward investment to the region and to showcase land that is available for development in the South East.

	Travel (£)	Accommodation (£)
2007	13,129	10,273
2008	13,012	7,342
2009	1,919	1,112

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent by the East Midlands Development Agency on *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation for representatives attending the MIPIM International Property Conference in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009. [323256]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is tabled as follows:

	Accommodation costs	£ Travel costs
2007	4,072	3,329
2008	5,700	2,915
2009	1,696	1,044

Learning Disability

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate has been made of the funding required by local authorities to administer the provision of learning for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [322924]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

The primary source of funding for additional support for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD) aged 16 to 18 is Additional Learning Support Funding (ALS). In 2009-10 this system was administered by local authorities (for school sixth forms) and by the Learning and Skills Council (for other provision 16 to 18). In the 2009/10 academic year the budget for ALS in school sixth forms and 16 to 18 FE provision is £275 million.

From April 2010 local authorities will assume responsibility for funding all education and training provision for 16 to 18-year-olds. In the 2010/11 academic year local authorities will be allocated £289 million for ALS in school sixth forms and 16 to 18 FE provision to reflect these new responsibilities.

Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of gross domestic product the manufacturing industry generated in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [324772]

Ian Lucas: The latest year covered by most recent fully balanced UK National Accounts produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is 2007. Manufacturing gross value added (GVA) accounted for 20.3 per cent. of total UK GVA[1] at current prices in 1997, compared to 12.4 per cent. in 2007.

The ONS are due to publish the next set of balanced UK National Accounts, which will include balanced figures for 2008, in July this year. Currently, the ONS provisionally estimates that manufacturing GVA accounted for 12.3 per cent. of total UK GVA at current prices in 2008. The ONS's early provisional estimates for 2009 suggest that last year manufacturing accounted for 11.8 per cent. of total UK GVA at current prices. This early estimate put the value of manufacturing output at £148.7 billion in 2009, close to the £150.2 billion of manufacturing output produced in 1997.

[1] Gross value added is the output measure of GDP, but minus taxes less subsidies on products (such as VAT).

North West Development Agency: Visits Abroad

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent by the North West Development Agency on *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation for representatives attending the MIPIM international property conference in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009. [323281]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:*

NWDA Response:

2007: No attendance from NWDA

2008: No attendance from NWDA

2009: One person from NWDA attended.

Flight—£303

Accommodation—£1,105 (This is high because you have to take accommodation for minimum of five nights during the MIPIM period, all Cannes hotels operated this principal during 2009).

One North East: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 298W, on One North East and North East Economic Forum: public relations, for what reason the Regional Development Agency chose to use the services of Sovereign Strategy. [324202]

Ms Rosie Winterton: North East Economic Forum (NEEF) events have been sponsored by a number of public and private bodies including One North East. In March 2006, One North East agreed to sponsor NEEF to deliver a series of events to debate economic issues affecting the North East. One North East paid £23,500 in March 2007 for this sponsorship. The payment was made to Sovereign Strategy as it is the company which manages the administration of NEEF. NEEF is a separate company registered with Companies House. One North East has no current contract with Sovereign Strategy.

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* regional development agencies have allocated to regional design panels since their inception. [308696]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Regional Design Panels (RDPs) are mainly funded by the RDAs. EEDA, NWDA, SEEDA, SWRDA and YF are the sole fund providers for their RDPs. AWM and LDA provide contributions to their RDP. ONE does not provide any funding to its RDP.

The following table gives a breakdown of both core and project funding provided by RDAs for Regional Design Panels (RDP) in their region. Where no data is provided, the RDP in that region was not yet in operation.

RDA	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*£000 2009-10*
AWM	—	—	16	30	43	194	150	150
EEDA	—	—	—	—	100	67	128	100
EMDA	—	30	40	15	40	20	20	20
LDA	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	15
NWDA	—	—	—	—	25	107	113	133
ONE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
SEEDA	46	131	102	141	141	141	163	140
SWRDA	—	—	—	72	96	120	80	59
YF	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 18 December 2009:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 15 December 2009, UIN 308696, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has not allocated any funding to regional design panels since their inception.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 21 December 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question what funding *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* regional development agencies have allocated to regional design panels since their inception.

The Insolvency Service does not have any involvement in regional design panels.

Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 22 December 2009:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 15 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office do not provide funding to regional design panels.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 21 December 2009:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 15 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Since the formation of the National Measurement Office in April 2009, the Agency has not allocated any funding to the regional design panels.

Research Councils: Finance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to each research council of fluctuations in the sterling exchange rate in the financial year 2009-10; and how much his Department has allocated to compensate research councils for such fluctuations. [323383]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* For financial year 2009-10 the movements in the sterling exchange rate have given rise to increases in international subscriptions costs of £13.45 million at NERC and £31.63 million at STFC.

The Department has provided additional allocations of £12.45 million to NERC and £28.63 million to STFC to compensate them for these extra costs.

Space Technology: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the creation of the proposed new UK space agency, including the *(a)* rebranding of the British National Space Centre and *(b)* public consultation conducted in 2009 on the civil space sector. [324602]

Mr. Lammy: The direct cost of creating the new UK Space Agency and rebranding the British National Space Centre (BNSC) is £46,500, relating to the launch event itself (note that this event also included the launch of the Government response to the Space IGT), the development of the logo, the protection of trademarks on the name and logo within the UK, and the website revamp.

The public consultation was run via the BNSC website and managed within the remit of existing BNSC staff, so did not involve any direct additional costs.

Students: Disabled

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Student Loans Company follows in administering the disabled students allowance in order to ensure that companies supplying specialist equipment to recipients have the capacity to deliver *(a)* the volume of equipment tendered and *(b)* ongoing support for the duration of a student's course of study. [324700]

Mr. Lammy: There is no contractual relationship between the Student Loans Company (SLC) and companies supplying specialist equipment which may be purchased by recipients of disabled students' allowances (DSAs). The Department recommends that SLC deals with suppliers audited by the disabled students' allowances—Quality Assurance Group[1] and committed to specific service

level agreements (which include a requirement to provide support for the duration of the student's course). However, DSAs are personal grants to individual students who are entitled to use whichever supplier they wish.

[1] The disabled students' allowances—Quality Assurance Group is a registered charity which provides a quality assurance service for assessment centres in the delivery of the disabled students allowances in England and Wales.

Tractors: Government Assistance

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the merits of a scheme to provide a financial incentive to replace old tractors. [325301]

Ian Lucas: I fully appreciate the impact the recession has had on all parts of the UK economy. We do not have any plans to introduce any additional financial incentive to replace old tractors.

Trade Unions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many days staff of his Department and its agencies spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity. [320618]

Mr. McFadden: This Department currently employs 3.0 full time departmental trade union side officers at an approximate cost of £90,000.

Across BIS, approximately 100 people have facilities time arrangements. The majority of these are very small allocations. It is not possible to provide figures for this except at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 16 March 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 1 March 2010, UIN 320618 to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

In the financial year 2009-10 Trade Union representatives used a total of 229.5 days facility time at an estimated cost of £19,350.00.

The facility time granted to Trade Union representatives in Companies House is in line with the ACAS Code of Practice "Time off for Trades Union Duties and Activities".

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 9 March 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to your question regarding how many days staff in The Insolvency Service spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available, and any estimate of the annual cost to the public purse of this activity.

The number of recorded days that staff in The Insolvency Service spent on trade union activity from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 was 122.93 (full-time equivalent). It should be noted that this figure is likely to be an under-estimate. Some staff that are not trade union officials but are trade union members, may engage in trade union activities e.g. attendance at officially sanctioned trade union meetings, for which no central records are kept. Additionally, the figure excludes any management involvement in trade union activities e.g. attendance at Whitley meetings (the main employee relations communication and consultation forum with trade unions).

I am unable to provide any estimate of the annual cost to the public purse of trade union activity, as this would incur disproportionate cost.

Letter from John Alty, dated 3 March 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 01 March 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

There were 255 days of allowed staff time spent on trade union activity in the Intellectual Property Office in 2008/09. This came at a cost of approximately £58,000 based on the average cost of the staff involved.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 11 March 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (NMO) to your Parliamentary Question asking the Minister of State, Department of Business, Innovation and Skills how many days staff of his Department and its agencies spent on trade union activity in the latest year and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of such activity.

The National Measurement Office (NMO) is part of the Partnership Agreement with the Cabinet Office and the Council of Civil Service Unions (CCSU) and also the Joint Agreement between the Permanent Secretary and the constituent Trade Unions FDA, PCS and Prospect. Under the Agreement and through the Departmental Whitley Council, NMO affords facility time to those members of staff acting as Accredited Officials up to a maximum of 25 days a year paid special leave (40 days for members of the National Executive). Time off for union activities has to be agreed and all time is recorded on the Agency time recording system. Under the Agreement on Facilities for Industrial Relations Activities and Trade Union Activities members may be granted reasonable paid time off for specific union activities as laid out in the agreement and we follow the ACAS Code of Practice "Time off for Trades Union Duties and Activities".

The relevant time recording system was introduced in April 2009 and data is therefore available only for the 11 months to end February 2010. During that period, 9.5 days (66.56 hours) have been credited for union activities. As individual members are from different grades, it is not possible to provide a cost in the time allocated for the reply.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors were taken into account in setting the level of air passenger duty in respect of journeys to the Caribbean; and if he will make a statement. [324736]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In reforming air passenger duty (APD) in 2008 the Government sought to ensure that flying contributes fairly to the public finances and, by introducing distance bands, to strengthen the environmental signal of the tax.

Rates are set after careful deliberation by Ministers, taking into account all relevant factors. Ticketing systems are mainly based on national territories, and as such it is straightforward to base the tax rates to specific destinations on countries, where the capital city is the natural proxy for the country. APD levels on journeys to Caribbean countries are therefore based on the distance between their capitals and London.

Banks: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assets are insured under his Department's Guarantee of Asset-Backed Securities. [324485]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government announced the asset-backed securities (ABS) guarantee scheme in January 2009, as part of a package of measures to stabilise financial markets, support lending to the economy and promote the transition towards a sustainable unguaranteed market. The ABS guarantee scheme closed on 31 December 2009.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much public funding has been provided to assist banks since the start of the credit crunch. [325069]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of the financial support provided to UK banks are provided in Budget 2010 and the Treasury's Resource Accounts.

Banks: Loans

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Financial Statement of 24 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 258, how much of the £94 billion of new business loans will be provided by *(a)* RBS and *(b)* Lloyds TSB; and what steps he plans to take should either bank not meet its loan targets. [325161]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: For the second year of the Lending Commitments, Lloyds Banking Group have agreed to lend £44 billion to businesses, and RBS have agreed to lend £50 billion to businesses.

If the Government's judgment is that either bank has failed to meet their lending commitments for year two, or has seriously breached the behaviours set out under their SME Customer Charters, the Government will inform UK Financial Investments, which will work with the remuneration committees of the relevant banks to determine the appropriate consequences of the breach of the year two commitments or the customer charters to the relevant executives.

Banks: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people resident in City of York constituency who have benefited from the Government's guarantee to depositors with Icelandic banks; and what estimate has been made of the average monetary value of their deposits. [324226]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Using orders made under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008, the retail deposit business of the UK subsidiaries of Kaupthing and Landsbanki respectively, Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (KSF) and Heritable, were transferred to ING.

At the time of the transfer approximately £3.6 billion was paid to ING by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) and the Treasury to facilitate the transfer of the retail deposit business. No estimate has been made specifically of the number of KSF and Heritable retail depositors living in York and the corresponding value of their deposits.

Retail depositors with Landsbanki (Icesave) are being compensated on an individual depositor-by-depositor basis by the FSCS. According to the FSCS about 2,369 retail depositors living in York have received payments from the FSCS. The total sum paid to retail depositors living in York is about £47.3 million, an average of £20,000 per depositor.

Business: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in Birmingham had received assistance from the Business Payment Support Service on the latest date for which figures are available. [325165]

Mr. Timms: Since its introduction on 24 November 2008, and up to 21 March 2010, HM Revenue and Customs' Business Payment Support Service (BPSS) has agreed over 307,000 time to pay arrangements with businesses in the UK to spread tax payments of just under £5.2 billion over an agreed period.

During the same period, the BPSS has agreed around 3,800 arrangements worth £71 million in Birmingham.

Cheques

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has had discussions with *(a)* pensioner groups and *(b)* other representatives of vulnerable people on proposals to end the cheque clearing system; [324041]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Payments Council on plans for alternative payment methods for cheque users should the cheque clearing system be ended. [324042]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The closure of cheque and credit clearing, the UK system that processes cheques, is a commercial decision for the Payments Council, an independent body that sets the strategy for UK payment systems, will take.

However, the Government recognise that certain groups (in particular the elderly, small businesses and the Third Sector) still value and are highly dependent on the cheque as a method of payment. We believe it is imperative that adequate alternatives are in place for all users of cheques, ahead of any potential closure of the cheque clearing system.

The Government have received representations on cheques directly from members of the public and Members of Parliament. Treasury officials are engaging with the Payments Council to ensure that the concerns of all cheque users are fully represented in any final decision to be taken in 2016 regarding the closure of the cheques clearing system.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Programme Board minutes of 26 June 2003, paragraph 5, if he will place in the Library a copy of the paper on recommended choice of Automated Valuation Model vendor. [324168]

Ian Pearson: This paper contains commercially sensitive information on the companies involved in the selection process and cannot be placed in the public domain.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Programme Board minutes of 19 October 2004, paragraph 3.5, if he will place in the Library a copy of the due diligence review conducted by the IAAO. [324318]

Ian Pearson: This review provides a description of the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA's) implementation of automated valuation modelling technology and a detailed analysis of the results it achieved. This is commercially sensitive and cannot be placed in the public domain.

Credit Unions

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the provision of *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support for credit unions; and if he will make a statement. [324960]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Government have set aside almost £100 million as Growth Fund money for onward lending by credit unions and community development financial institutions. Over 240,000 credit union members have benefited from these loans to date with the average loan being around £450.

The Legislative Reform Order for Industrial and Provident Societies and credit unions is currently passing through Parliament using the super-affirmative procedure, while the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies and Credit Unions Act received Royal Assent on 11 March.

We announced at Budget 2010:

"The Government will continue to work to improve the supply of affordable credit for low-income households, including by supporting third sector lenders. It will consult on options to make sure banks make an appropriate contribution to community lenders through regulatory action or a new community levy to be funded by retail banks".

These initiatives show the Government's commitment towards credit unions and other mutual societies in the role they play in providing greater choice and diversity in the financial services sector.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* his Department, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(c)* the Valuation Office Agency has incurred expenditure on Google Adwords in the last 12 months. [323516]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury has not spent any money on Google Adwords. HM Revenue and Customs and the Valuation Office Agency spent £550,000 and £37,000 respectively on Google Adwords in the last 12 months.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies have spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324428]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury spending on rooms used for staff leisure is limited to standard maintenance costs and is therefore indistinguishable from spending on rooms used entirely for business purposes.

The Office of Government Commerce spent £10,000 upgrading shower facilities in 2009, with no other separately distinguishable expenditure for earlier years.

The UK Debt Management Office does not have any rooms allocated purely for staff leisure purposes.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324553]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In 1 Horse Guards road, the Treasury Sports and Social Club allow the company Energy Fitness Professionals to run a gym and classes to which it provides no financial subsidy other than providing Energy Fitness Professionals with the free accommodation.

Rosebery Court in Norwich has one gym, run by the Rosebery Court Sports and Social Club. Gym users pay to use this gym directly to the social club, and it is not subsidised by either the social club or the department.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324684]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 266W.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324968]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In March 2009, HM Treasury Group was the first central Government Department to achieve the Carbon Trust's Carbon Standard for sustained improvement on a range of environmental indicators across its estate, and is committed to further improvements. It has achieved this without the installation of voltage optimisers or similar technology but keeps this under regular review.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on antique furniture in each of the last five years; and what items were purchased in each such year. [325112]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury has not purchased any antique furniture in the past five years.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in current prices. [324802]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 190W, to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Mr. Shapps). Information on the cost of employing Press Officers in 1996-97 could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its Department's website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325189]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury has received no complaints regarding difficulties operating its website in each of the last three years.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325207]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury has not spent any money on external website design consultants between 2006-07 and 2008-09.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies are in transition prior to being managed out; how long on average the transition window between notification and exit has been in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the salary costs of staff in transition in each such year; and what proportion of employees in transition were classed as being so for more than six months in each year; [313233]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies managed out in the last five years who remain working in the public sector. [313847]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Employees across the Treasury Group are kept informed of any forthcoming changes in organisational roles or functions, and full support is given to employees. Staff have six months' notice, more in the case of disabled staff, in order to find alternative employment.

Information covering HM Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) is set out in the following table. The Treasury and OGC figures for 2008-09 relate to additional time given to employees to seek alternative employment elsewhere in the civil service.

The Debt Management Office (DMO) has not had any employees in transition over the last five years.

Estimates of salary costs, and of the percentage of former staff who remain in the public sector, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Organisation	*Average time (months)*	*Number of staff >6 months*
HM Treasury		
2004-05	4.0	5
2005-06	0.0	0
2006-07	6.0	<5
2007-08	4.8	<5
2008-09	14.0	<5
OGC		
2004-05	0.0	0
2005-06	0.0	0
2006-07	0.0	0
2007-08	6.3	34
2008-09	15.0	14

Information relating to fewer than five cases has been withheld where this could lead to the identification of protected personal information.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) alcohol and (ii) entertainment in the last 12 months. [305530]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In 2008-09, the Treasury spent £91,000 and the Office of Government Commerce £1,000 on official entertainment.

For information on alcohol spending by the Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce, I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Member for Wallasey (Angela Eagle) gave on 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 103W, to the hon. Member for Reading, East (Mr. Wilson). The Debt Management Office spent £10,000 on official entertainment in 2008-09, of which £2,000 was spent on alcohol.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the benchmark results of the Civil Service People Survey for his Department and its agencies. [322563]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Summaries of the results for HM Treasury and Office of Government Commerce have been placed in the Library. The Debt Management Office (DMO) will place a copy of the results of its survey results in the Library after they have been shared with DMO staff.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which companies his Department sourced temporary staff in each of the last three years; how many temporary staff his Department employed in each year; and what the monetary value of the contracts with each such company was in each such year. [320012]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury has used the following companies to provide temporary staff in 2008-09. Information on the numbers of temporary staff employed is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Year 2008-09

Supplier name	*£*
Brook Street (UK)Ltd.	6,000
Huntress Search Ltd.	1,000
Kelly Services (UK) Ltd.	145,000
Office Angels	—
OSR Recruitment Services	1,000
Reed Employment plc	4,000
Reed Personnel Services plc	1,000
Total	158,000

Details for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 were contained in the answer provided to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 799W.

Hamas

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps he has taken to freeze the assets of financial institutions operating in UK jurisdictions which provide banking facilities to Hamas. [325223]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Hamas (including its military wing, the Izz-al-Din al-Qassem Brigades) is subject to an EU asset freeze under Council Regulation (EC) No. 2580/2001. The Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009 provides enforcement provisions in the UK in respect of this Regulation. Hamas' military wing is also proscribed in the UK.

As such, any financial institutions or other persons that hold or operate accounts for Hamas (including its military wing) are required to freeze those accounts. In addition, the asset freeze prevents financial institutions and others from making funds, economic resources or financial services available to Hamas.

The prohibitions in the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009 apply to persons in the UK and British citizens elsewhere, including corporate bodies incorporated or constituted under the law of any part of the UK or a Scottish partnership, including banks, financial institutions, charitable organisations and non-governmental organisations, in the UK or established under UK law.

Hotels

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely annual savings to the public purse of the use by Government Departments of the Expotel facility for hotel bookings. [324212]

Ian Pearson: It is for the relevant public sector body to account for their savings through the use of the Expotel contract.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 265W, on valuation, how many new conservatories local authorities have notified to the Valuation Office Agency in the last 12 months. [324169]

Ian Pearson: This information cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

Islamic National Bank: Palestinians

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his US counterparts on freezing by the US administration of assets of the Islamic National Bank based in Gaza. [325225]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers have discussions with a variety of individuals and organisations, including international partners, as part of the process of policy development and delivery on counter-terrorist finance. As with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Minimum Wage: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* penalty notices and *(b)* financial penalties have been issued to employers in each local authority area in the North West for paying employees at rates below the national minimum wage in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [325041]

Mr. Timms: Prior to 6 April 2009, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) issued penalty notices to those employers who failed to comply, within 28 days, with an enforcement notice.

From 6 April 2009, the national minimum wage (NMW) enforcement regime includes the issue of an automatic penalty in most cases of minimum wage non-compliance.

The information requested at a regional level is provided in the following table. HMRC does not maintain statistical information by local authority areas. All penalties issued have a financial amount payable.

	NMW penalty notices issued by HMRC to employers in the north-west
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	1
2008-09	1
2009 (to February 2010)	33 notices of underpayment issued with penalties

Money Laundering

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many incidents possibly related to money laundering *(a)* the Inland Revenue and *(b)* HM Customs and Excise have reported to the appropriate investigative agencies in each year since 1997; and how many prosecutions resulted from these reports in each year. [314007]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is authorised to investigate money laundering under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, as was the former HM Customs and Excise (HMCE). HMRC

officers investigate money laundering with their own resources, and will not generally make disclosures to another agency. However where HMRC (and previously HMCE) detect money laundering that is related to offences which are outside the remit of HMRC, for example people trafficking or robbery, it may refer those to another agency that has primacy in the respective area. Since 2001, 47 money laundering cases have been referred to other agencies.

Powers to allow the former Inland Revenue to pass disclosures relating to incidents of suspected money laundering to other investigatory agencies came into force with other provisions of the Anti-terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001 on 14 December 2001. Prior to the merger of HMCE and Inland Revenue in April 2005, the Inland Revenue made 16 disclosures to the appropriate agencies.

HMRC, under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007, is the supervisory authority regulator of High Value Dealers, Money Service Businesses, Trust or Company Service Providers, and Accountancy Service Providers. In relation to these areas, if HMRC knows or suspects that a person is, or has, engaged in money laundering or terrorist financing, it has an obligation to inform the Serious Organised Crime Agency. HMRC has made 15 referrals to SOCA since the 2007 regulations came into force.

Disclosures to other agencies by HMRC relating to money laundering can be used by other law enforcement agencies in a variety of ways to detect crime and trace the proceeds of criminal activity. For example, such information may contribute to an ongoing investigation, trigger a new investigation or be held on the relevant intelligence database for future cases.

HMRC does not know the outcome of all referrals and given the variety of ways in which information is used, it is not possible to link particular disclosures with particular prosecutions and convictions in the majority of cases.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 6 of the Explanatory Memorandum to the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010, what assessment has been made of the effect in ports on corporation tax revenues of the new regime of retrospective business rates; and what methodology is used to assess the effect of *(a)* lower and *(b)* higher business rates on corporation tax revenues. [323179]

Ian Pearson: As regards the backdating of non-domestic property rateable values in English and Welsh ports, the payment scheme introduced to allow affected business to spread their liabilities over eight years was judged to have a negligible impact on corporation tax revenues.

In the case of the extension of temporary rate relief for empty business properties (Explanatory Memorandum to the Non-Domestic Rating Amendment Regulations—2010 No. 408) the methodology underlying the corporation tax implications, referred to on page 6 of the impact assessment, was covered in paragraphs 18 and 19 of the accompanying 'Evidence Base'.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value of retrospective business rate demands for port businesses, excluding the sum payable in respect of the current period; and how many newly-assessed businesses have (i) paid in respect of the new assessment and (ii) paid or made a contribution under his extended payment proposals. [323596]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

As at 23 December 2009, the Valuation Office Agency have advised my Department that 724 newly assessed, port based properties are liable for backdated rates to 1 April 2005.

An estimate of the monetary value of the backdated liabilities was made in respect of all ratepayers (not just port based properties) and was published in the impact assessment alongside the Explanatory Memorandum for the Non Domestic Rating (collection and Enforcement) (local Lists) (England) (Amendment) regulations 2009

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/em/uksiem_20090204_en.pdf

This states that the estimated backdated liability, before the application of any reliefs, is forecast to be approximately £131 million and the cost of the scheme to be approximately £33 million.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some situated in ports. It has legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in a single instalment, helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87.5 per cent.

As at 8 October 2009, local authorities have reported that ratepayers occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and ratepayers occupying a further 200 business properties within ports had been granted a schedule of payments. The Government do not have information on how many payments, or of what amount, the 200 properties with schedule of payments agreements have made.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has undertaken costings of the policies of *(a)* the Conservative Party and *(b)* the Liberal Democrat Party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months. [324403]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of opposition policy costings undertaken by the Department are contained in two FOI releases published in February on the Department's website. They can be found at the following addresses:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/foi_opposition_costings_170210.htm

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/foi_opposition_costings_050210.htm

PAYE: Belfast

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people with a BT postcode paying income tax as part of the Pay As You Earn system in 2009 had more than one income stream. [323591]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 23 March 2010]:* From the Survey of Personal Incomes, HM Revenue and Customs estimates that 629,000 taxpayers in Northern Ireland had employment income for 2007-08, the latest year available. The survey does not count the number of separate income sources.

Poverty

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of the measures to promote employment as the best route out of poverty, referred to in Chapter 2 of Ending Child Poverty: Mapping the Route to 2020 apply to *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [325072]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply

The purpose of the strategic direction paper—"Ending Child Poverty: Mapping the route to 2020" is to set out the Government's strategic direction and key priorities for ending child poverty by 2020 and beyond and paves the way for the National Strategy which will be published next year.

It is not for the strategic direction paper to set out the detailed policies and implementation plan needed to achieve the targets set out in the Bill—this will be the task for the National Strategy. The listed employment measures in chapter two of "Ending Child Poverty: Mapping the route to 2020" are suggested policy areas for the next strategy to take into account rather than policies to be implemented across the UK.

Alongside the full UK strategy, the devolved Administrations will each produce strategies to cover non-reserved areas. The UK Government will continue to work closely with all three devolved Administrations to promote consistency in the policies that are being delivered for children across the UK and so the respective child poverty strategies compliment each other.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) from what baselines HM Revenue and Customs will measure progress against its strategic objectives in respect of data security between 2009 and 2012; and by what mechanism such progress will be *(a)* measured and *(b)* evaluated; [325293]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 74W, on Revenue and Customs: data protection, how many data security incidents there were in his Department in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of the number of persons affected. [325295]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) plans to achieve its data security targets, and the measurement criteria to evaluate performance against them, are set out in the Department's annual business plans, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Information on data security incidents in 2008-09 is published on page 15 of HMRC's 2008-09 accounts; available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0809.pdf

Information for 2009-10 will be published in HMRC's 2009-10 accounts.

Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish his Department's evaluation of the trials involving the collection by commercial agencies of debt owed to HM Revenue and Customs. [325292]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs currently expects to be able to publish a summary of the small scale pilot to test the use of commercial debt collection agencies by autumn 2010.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was received in stamp duty land tax for purchases over £500,000 in each year since 1997. [325229]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Estimated stamp duty land tax (SDLT) receipts for purchases over £500,000, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-3.xls

are given in the following table for years from 1997-98:

Estimated SDLT[1] receipts

	£ million
1997-98	640
1998-99	1,140
1999-2000	1,580
2000-01	1,930
2001-02	1,885
2002-03	2,050
2003-04	2,125
2004-05	2,825
2005-06	3,935
2006-07	4,975
2007-08	5,410
2008-09	2,740

[1]This was stamp duty on land and property prior to December 2003.

Estimates for 1997-98 to 2000-01 were published in previous years at the same web address.

Taxation: Highland Airways

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether HM Revenue and Customs provided assistance to Highland Airways through the business payments scheme; [325286]

(2) whether HM Revenue and Customs had discussions with Highland Airways prior to its entry into receivership. [325287]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs is under a strict, statutory, duty of confidentiality and cannot comment on the tax affairs of individual businesses.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he made an assessment of the merits of bringing forward proposals to extend the provisions of the Furnished Holiday Lettings rules to all UK owners of furnished holiday accommodation in the UK and other EEA countries. [324520]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* An assessment of extending the Furnished Holiday Lettings (FHL) rules to those with furnished holiday accommodation in other EEA countries was included in the impact assessment published alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/furnished-holiday-ia-3760.pdf

Taxation: Personal Records

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* noble Lords, *(c)* researchers, *(d)* former elected representatives, *(e)* local authority councillors and *(f)* members of the armed forces are eligible for special category status for personal tax records held by HM Revenue and Customs; [324326]

(2) how many staff members of *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency have their personal tax records given a special category classification. [324327]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) applies high standards of confidentiality and security to all customer data. The provision of additional safeguards in respect of data relating to certain categories of individuals is an operational matter for HMRC. I am able to confirm that Ministers of the Crown, some Elected Representatives and certain other individuals are subject to additional safeguards. All HMRC staff are subject to additional safeguards for reasons of propriety.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are estimated to have been late in filing their tax returns by 31 January 2010. [323326]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* 1,165,538 self-assessment tax returns were not filed by 31 January 2010.

Taxation: Self-assessment and PAYE

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the cost under each budget heading was of administering the *(a)* Pay-As-You-Earn and *(b)* self-assessment system in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009.; [312331]

(2) how much it cost to operate PAYE, Self Assessment and national insurance in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009, broken down by budget heading. [313970]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is set out in the following table. The figures are based upon an allocation of total costs for the Department. HMRC's reporting systems do not allow for costs to be reported at the level of budget heading.

The figures reflect a period of significant change across HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) following the merger of Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise, and the creation of the UK Border Agency. Consequently, the allocations of overhead costs have not always been consistent as structures change, and improvements are made.

£ million

	HMRC's administrative costs			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Pay-as-you-earn	919.2	944.4	949.3	951.5
Self-assessment	867.1	926.7	805.0	899.3
National Insurance	360.6	338.1	374.0	346.2

A large part of the increase in reported cost between 2005-06 and 2006-07 was due to the introduction of a new financial system in April 2006. This system allowed additional costs that were previously treated as departmental overheads to be directly allocated to business functions. This resulted in the increase of costs directly attributed to income tax functions.

Departmental restructuring during 2007-08 affected the way in which cost allocation data was captured during the year. As a consequence of this, the figure of £805 million for administering income tax self-assessment during 2007-08 is likely to be understated.

Valuation Office Agency: Contracts

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 522W, on the Valuation Office: contracts, how much was spent with Gfk NOP Ltd. in 2008-09; what polling and opinion research was purchased by the Valuation Office Agency from GfK NOP Ltd.; and for what purposes. [323193]

Ian Pearson: Expenditure incurred by the Valuation Office Agency in relation to GfK NOP Ltd. was £84,919. No polling material was purchased.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 522W, on the Valuation Office: contracts, how much was spent with Speakers for Business in 2008-09; which speakers were hired; and for what purposes. [323195]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency spent £2,375 on "Speakers for Business". This related to speaking engagements from Professor Richard Scase and Col. Bob Stewart and related to staff training and development on leadership and managing change in the finance function of the VOA.

VAT: Churches

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received in favour of the extension of the provisions of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme beyond March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [325260]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations. The future of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme beyond March 2011 will be considered in the spending review later this year.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many checks his Department carried out on *(a)* expenditure on (i) food and (ii) childcare by and *(b)* bank statements from more than six months previously of recipients of tax credits in each year since 2005; what criteria are used to decide to carry out such checks; and if he will make a statement. [324123]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available. For information relating to HM Revenue and Customs compliance checks on tax credits awards I refer the hon. Member to the information published in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 Comptroller and Auditor General's standard reports.

Information for years up to and including 2007-08 can be found in table 6 on page R15 of the 2007-08 report published at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-dep-acct0708.pdf

Similar information for 2008-09 is included in table 33 on page R41 of the Standard Report published at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0809.pdf

Providing further information about the criteria used to carry out such checks might assist those attempting to defraud the system.

JUSTICE

Land Registry

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate the Land Registry made of the average price of *(a)* a detached house, *(b)* a semi-detached house, *(c)* a terraced house, *(d)* flat and *(e)* an average dwelling in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the most recent period for which figures are available in (A) England, (B) each Government Office region and (C) each local authority area. [324536]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is able to provide information based on the total number of residential properties sold at full value[1] in the requested categories in 1996 and 2009, for (A) England and Wales and (C) each local authority. Land Registry do not hold figures broken down by Government office region. The information has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

[1] Full value = residential property transactions where the full price has been paid. The figures exclude a number of transactions including Right to Buy sales at a discount, properties sold by way of a gift and properties sold under a compulsory purchase or court order.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Dundee East of 12 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 545W, on Ministerial policy advisers, what contractors from each company were employed by the Communications Directorate; and what the cost to the public purse was of each contract. [324830]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice was formed in May 2007 and is one of the largest Government Departments. Communications, including the work of the press office, is an important element of this. The Ministry of Justice press office operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, dealing with all media relations for the Department and its Agencies from the international, national and regional media. Communication in all its forms is an important element of ensuring that the public know and understand the work of the Ministry of Justice and its Agencies. Contractors and agency staff play a part in the functioning of the Communications Directorate where expert knowledge is required for a defined period of time.

Contractors and agency staff who work as communications officers include press officers, intranet/internet staff, event organisation, marketing and publishing staff and others involved in communications roles. Support staff and consultants are excluded from the following information.

Under the Data Protection Principles in the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA), it is not possible to disclose the positions of each individual contractor or agency staff member as it would breach the fair processing principle. The individual to whom the personal data relate has a reasonable expectation that the Department would hold that information in confidence. However, outside of the Act this information can be provided at agency level.

The amount spent in 2008-09 by agency:

Agency	*Expenditure (£)*
Adecco	2,208
Badenoch	190,438
Beetroot publishing	2,350
Brook Street	9,021
Central Office of Information (including GovGisp)	263,688
Hays	29,269
Hudson	8,591
Human Resources	47,468
Huntress	37,076
Inkhorn	60,154
Levy	44,677
Michael Page	536,336
Morgan Hunt	262,609
Parity	19,289
Sands	262,313
Self-Employed	686
Starflash	5,840
Vma	42,974

Agency	Expenditure (£)
VMA	241,332
Grand Total	2,066,299

The amount spent in 2007-08 by agency:

Agency	Expenditure (£)
Adecco	11,974
Badenoch	76,636
BNB Recruitment Consultancy	13,953
Capita	45,000
Central Office of Information (including GovGazp)	45,364
Ceries	4,676
Generic Recruitment	30,848
Hays Specialist Recruitment	932
Hudson	133,295
Huntress	9,593
JCT Communications	6,960
Levy	5,054
Michael Page	98,125
Morgan Hunt	123,825
Reed	56,648
Sands	73,837
Self-Employed	22,684
Venn	29,592
VMA	185,000
Grand Total	974,037

The costs of press and communications officers relate to the Communications Directorate at the Ministry of Justice headquarters and communications functions in its four executive agencies (HM Courts Service, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), the Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian).

The growth in expenditure on press officers and communications officers reflects the significantly increased size and remit of MOJ compared to its predecessor, the Department for Constitutional Affairs, and a consequent need to increase the number and capability of staff employed. To meet the challenge, a number of communications-led projects were undertaken which required the employment of specialist contractors by the MOJ HQ Communications Directorate, for a limited period of time which further increased costs in 2008-09 on a one-off basis.

A minor proportion of these costs have been estimated where separate records had not been kept at the time.

Expenditure on communications officers by the National Offender Management Service is not directly comparable between years and includes only the central internal communications unit. Furthermore, 2007-08 figures exclude the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This is due to reorganisation within the Department between the two financial years.

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 947W, on anti-social behaviour: fixed penalties, what powers representatives of parish councils have to issue penalty notices for disorder; and what changes there have been to parish councils' powers to issue fines or fixed penalty notices since 1997. [324840]

Claire Ward: It is possible for a parish warden to be accredited under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme. In granting accreditation, the chief officer of the local police force may also grant powers that include a power to issue penalty notices for disorder.

Parish council representatives also have powers to issue other fixed penalty notices. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 allows parish councils to prosecute, in the magistrates court, those that are suspected of committing an offence against a dog control order, or who are suspected of having committed a litter, graffiti or fly-posting offence. The Act gives the power to parish councils to authorise staff to issue fixed penalty notices to alleged offenders as an alternative to prosecution.

Approved Premises: Prisons

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* custodial institutions and *(b)* approved premises there are in each constituency or smallest comparable local area for which figures are available. [324788]

Maria Eagle: Details of custodial institutions (including young offender institutions and immigration removal centres operated by the National Offender Management Service, secure training centres and secure children's homes) and approved premises in each constituency are set out in the following tables:

Custodial institutions by constituency

Constituency	Number
Arundel and South Downs	1
Aylesbury	1
Banbury	1
Bedford	1
Berwick-upon-Tweed	2
Birmingham Ladywood	1
Bishop Auckland	1
Blaby	1
Boston and Skegness	1
Bridgend	1
Bristol West	1
Bromsgrove	1
Brentwood	1
Buckingham	1
Burton	1
Cambridgeshire North East	1
Canterbury	1
Cardiff Central	1
Chelmsford West	1
Chorley	2
City of Durham	3
Copeland	1
Daventry	2
Derbyshire South	1
Derbyshire West	1
Devizes	1
Devon West and Torridge	1
Don Valley	2
Doncaster Central	1
Dorset North	1
Dorset South	2
Dorset West	1
Dover	1
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	1

Custodial institutions by constituency

Constituency	Number
Eccles	2
Elmet	2
Erith and Thamesmead	1
Exeter	2
Fareham	1
Faversham and Kent Mid	1
Feltham and Heston	1
Fylde	1
Gloucester	1
Gosport	1
Halesowen and Rowley	2
Harborough	1
Henley	1
Hertfordshire South West	1
Hexham	1
Hull East	1
Huntingdon	1
Isle of Wight	1
Islington North	1
Islington South and Finsbury	1
Kingswood	1
Knowsley North and Sefton East	1
Lancaster and Wyre	2
Leeds North West	1
Leeds West	1
Leicester South	1
Leigh	1
Lewes	1
Lincoln	1
Liverpool Walton	2
Maidstone and The Weald	1
Manchester Blackley	1
Medway	3
Mid Norfolk and North Norfolk[1]	1
Milton Keynes South West	2
Mole Valley	1
Monmouth	1
Neath	1
Newark	1
Norfolk South West	1
Northavon	3
North West Durham	1
Norwich North	1
Nottingham East	1
Peterborough	1
Portsmouth South	1
Preston	1
Rayleigh	1
Reading East	1
Reigate	2
Richmond	1
Richmond Park	1
Rochdale	1
Rugby and Kenilworth	1
Rushcliffe	1
Rutland and Melton	2
Sedgefield	1
Selby	1
Sheffield, Hallam	1
Sherwood	1
Shrewsbury and Atcham	1
Shropshire North	1
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	3
Sleaford and North Hykeham	2
Spelthorne	1

Custodial institutions by constituency

Constituency	Number
St. Helens North	1
Stafford	1
Staffordshire Moorlands	1
Staffordshire South	2
Stockton North	1
Stockton South	1
Stone	1
Streatham	1
Suffolk Coastal	2
Suffolk West	2
Surrey Heath	1
Swansea West	1
Tamworth	1
Tatton	1
Tooting	1
Totnes	1
Tunbridge Wells	1
Wakefield	2
Warrington North	2
Waveney	1
Wellingborough	1
Wells	1
Winchester	1
Worcestershire Mid	1
Yorkshire East	1

[1] One prison crosses the boundaries of the constituencies of Mid Norfolk and North Norfolk.

Approved premises by constituency

Constituency	Number
Aldridge-Brownhills	1
Batley and Spen	1
Battersea	1
Berkshire	1
Bedford	1
Billericay	1
Birmingham, Edgbaston	1
Birmingham, Perry Barr	1
Birmingham, Selly Oak	2
Blackburn	1
Bournemouth East	1
Brent East	1
Bridgwater	1
Brighton, Kemptown	1
Bristol North West	1
Bristol West	2
Bury North	1
Camberwell and Peckham	1
Cardiff West	1
Carlisle	1
Central Suffolk and North Ipswich	1
City of York	1
Clwyd South	1
Congleton	1
Conwy	1
Denton and Reddish	1
Derby North	1
Dewsbury	1
Doncaster Central	1
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	1
Eccles	1
Ellesmere Port and Neston	1
Falmouth and Camborne	1
Fareham	1

Approved premises by constituency

Constituency	Number
Gloucester	1
Guildford	1
Havant	1
Heywood and Middleton	1
Holborn and St. Pancras	2
Hyndburn	1
Ipswich	1
Islington North	1
Kingston upon Hull North	1
Leeds Central	2
Leeds North West	2
Leicester South	2
Lewisham West	1
Lincoln	1
Liverpool Riverside	3
Liverpool Wavertree	1
Luton South	1
Maidstone and The Weald	1
Manchester Central	1
Manchester, Withington	1
Middlesbrough	1
Milton Keynes South West	1
Newcastle-under-Lyme	1
Northampton North	1
Norwich North	1
Nottingham East	1
Nottingham South	1
Nuneaton	1
Oldham West and Royton	1
Oxford East	2
Peterborough	1
Plymouth, Sutton	1
Reading West	2
Redcar	1
Richmond Park	1
Rotherham	1
Scunthorpe	1
Sheffield Heeley	1

Approved premises by constituency

Constituency	Number
Sherwood	1
South Dorset	1
Southampton Test	1
Stafford	1
Stoke-on-Trent Central	1
Streatham	2
Sunderland South	1
Swansea West	1
Tyne Bridge	3
Wakefield	1
Warley	1
Warwick and Lemington	1
West Ham	1
Windsor	1
Wolverhampton South East	1
Worcester	1

Burial

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many welfare burials there were in each of the last five years. [323587]

Bridget Prentice: The data requested are not held centrally.

Convictions: Hunting Act 2004

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions, *(b)* convictions and *(c)* cautions there have been for each offence under the Hunting Act 2004 in each year since the Act came into force. [324881]

Claire Ward: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, and the number of offenders cautioned, in England and Wales for offences under the Hunting Act 2004, from 2005 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Cautions and court proceedings data for 2009 are planned to be published in the autumn, 2010.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, and the number of offenders cautioned[1, 2] for offences under the Hunting Act 2004[3], England and Wales, 2005 to 2008[4, 5, 6]

Offence description	Year	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Cautioned
Hunting a wild mammal with a dog - sections 1 and 6	2005	2	2	1
	2006	10	4	—
	2007	57	44	8
	2008	41	31	4
Knowingly permitting land to be entered or used in the course of hunting a wild mammal with dogs—sections 3(1) and 6	2005	—	—	—
	2006	—	—	—
	2007	1	—	—
	2008	—	—	—
Knowingly permitting a dog to be used in the course of hunting a wild mammal—section 3(2) and 6	2005	—	—	—
	2006	1	1	—
	2007	—	—	—
	2008	—	—	—
Participating in a hare coursing event - sections 5(1)(a) and 6	2005	—	—	—

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, and the number of offenders cautioned[1, 2] for offences under the Hunting Act 2004[3], England and Wales, 2005 to 2008[4, 5, 6]

Offence description	Year	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Cautioned
	2006	—	—	—
	2007	—	—	—
	2008	1	—	—
Attending a hare coursing event - sections 5(1)(b) and 6	2005	—	—	—
	2006	—	—	—
	2007	—	—	—
	2008	2	2	—
Permitting a dog to participate in a hare coursing event—section 5(2)	2005	—	—	—
	2006	—	—	—
	2007	4	4	—
	2008	—	—	—
All offences	2005	2	2	1
	2006	11	5	—
	2007	62	48	8
	2008	44	33	4

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[3] Came into force on 18 February 2005.
[4] The court proceedings statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[6] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice

Convictions

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* juveniles in each constituency were convicted of (i) violence against the person, (ii) sexual offences, (iii) robbery, (iv) burglary and (v) theft in each year between 2005 and 2008. [324607]

Claire Ward: The following table shows the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary and theft and handling stolen goods, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, from 2005 to 2008.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2005-08[1, 2, 3]

		Age 10-17				Age 18 and over			
Police force area	Offence type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
Avon and Somerset	Violence against the person	147	159	169	162	770	758	762	794
	Sexual offences	11	11	16	11	83	89	97	99
	Burglary	132	131	147	138	488	426	434	523
	Robbery	53	51	59	60	87	97	105	114
	Theft and handling stolen goods	308	357	387	345	2,191	2,107	2,428	2,737
	Sub-total	651	709	778	716	3,619	3,477	3,826	4,267
Bedfordshire	Violence against the person	62	63	64	81	307	303	298	315
	Sexual offences	6	3	4	4	39	35	41	34
	Burglary	85	89	72	61	176	158	156	186
	Robbery	61	62	55	60	44	53	54	63

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2005-08[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	Offence type	Age 10-17				Age 18 and over			
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Theft and handling stolen goods	175	129	153	97	1,208	896	940	922
	Sub-total	389	346	348	303	1,774	1,445	1,489	1,520
Cambridgeshire	Violence against the person	115	70	84	82	398	388	389	427
	Sexual offences	11	7	8	6	51	67	40	76
	Burglary	73	61	84	53	203	179	195	219
	Robbery	23	20	36	23	47	25	46	52
	Theft and handling stolen goods	212	202	203	180	1,076	1,084	1,016	1,329
	Sub-total	434	360	415	344	1,775	1,743	1,686	2,103
Cheshire	Violence against the person	159	205	179	130	629	678	740	627
	Sexual offences	12	16	9	13	80	89	84	101
	Burglary	154	113	106	94	293	277	319	339
	Robbery	34	32	26	30	35	72	75	69
	Theft and handling stolen goods	284	308	265	235	1,247	1,426	1,631	1,769
	Sub-total	643	674	585	502	2,284	2,542	2,849	2,905
City of London	Violence against the person	—	—	—	—	43	34	23	40
	Sexual offences	—	—	—	—	5	5	3	4
	Burglary	—	—	—	—	29	17	11	18
	Robbery	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	3
	Theft and handling stolen goods	1	1	—	—	322	282	332	367
	Sub-total	1	1	—	—	401	343	369	432
Cleveland	Violence against the person	83	123	114	119	486	597	579	576
	Sexual offences	6	13	6	9	43	74	56	68
	Burglary	90	105	113	84	342	353	393	435
	Robbery	21	17	16	19	46	48	35	70
	Theft and handling stolen goods	257	271	320	344	1,458	1,419	1,658	2,153
	Sub-total	457	529	569	575	2,375	2,491	2,721	3,302
Cumbria	Violence against the person	101	110	81	89	442	382	377	395
	Sexual offences	9	6	4	5	46	38	46	39
	Burglary	64	63	89	65	150	146	135	172
	Robbery	6	1	4	3	11	7	12	15
	Theft and handling stolen goods	221	226	214	200	868	786	857	944
	Sub-total	401	406	392	362	1,517	1,359	1,427	1,565
Derbyshire	Violence against the person	191	132	176	134	711	539	591	518
	Sexual offences	13	12	7	12	79	146	122	93
	Burglary	76	91	114	93	311	265	318	277
	Robbery	33	50	40	36	56	45	69	83
	Theft and handling stolen goods	255	275	314	270	1,372	1,131	1,201	1,403
	Sub-total	568	560	651	545	2,529	2,126	2,301	2,374
Devon and Cornwall	Violence against the person	142	115	115	139	770	699	648	652

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2005-08[1, 2, 3]

		Age 10-17				Age 18 and over			
Police force area	*Offence type*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
	Sexual offences	12	2	10	14	101	109	112	117
	Burglary	91	101	131	89	330	278	336	394
	Robbery	21	22	26	18	49	45	51	45
	Theft and handling stolen goods	411	314	385	329	1,535	1,341	1,386	1,682
	Sub-total	677	554	667	589	2,785	2,472	2,533	2,890
Dorset	Violence against the person	79	77	68	52	369	329	310	282
	Sexual offences	4	4	2	5	51	52	40	61
	Burglary	38	41	50	28	196	141	160	158
	Robbery	7	15	6	9	23	25	22	28
	Theft and handling stolen goods	188	180	179	160	1,061	835	877	982
	Sub-total	316	317	305	254	1,700	1,382	1,409	1,511
Durham	Violence against the person	132	150	146	117	526	548	566	522
	Sexual offences	11	14	4	8	59	52	57	67
	Burglary	112	79	103	59	248	211	271	266
	Robbery	1	8	21	10	17	32	31	42
	Theft and handling stolen goods	229	218	258	198	925	884	1,017	991
	Sub-total	485	469	532	392	1,775	1,727	1,942	1,888
Essex	Violence against the person	178	170	173	170	654	638	740	700
	Sexual offences	6	6	5	9	95	83	76	100
	Burglary	172	189	176	129	350	311	374	332
	Robbery	43	54	60	49	88	72	85	81
	Theft and handling stolen goods	520	527	578	536	2,213	2,164	2,399	2,381
	Sub-total	919	946	992	893	3,400	3,268	3,674	3,594
Gloucestershire	Violence against the person	71	62	57	56	296	284	207	303
	Sexual offences	4	3	6	4	50	60	44	39
	Burglary	26	53	52	39	185	121	118	197
	Robbery	16	34	16	8	22	32	48	41
	Theft and handling stolen goods	155	170	199	167	972	664	640	1,064
	Sub-total	272	322	330	274	1,525	1,161	1,057	1,644
Greater Manchester	Violence against the person	572	522	526	487	2,274	2,539	2,540	2,262
	Sexual offences	39	29	34	29	253	274	284	293
	Burglary	505	516	437	451	1,211	1,303	1,316	1,325
	Robbery	272	298	320	245	400	448	420	436
	Theft and handling stolen goods	1,283	1,021	1,195	1,011	5,993	5,948	6,079	6,129
	Sub-total	2,671	2,386	2,512	2,223	10,131	10,512	10,639	10,445
Hampshire	Violence against the person	261	248	276	269	1,052	1,096	1,039	1,097
	Sexual offences	15	18	22	23	146	136	143	164
	Burglary	192	237	195	211	409	390	372	407
	Robbery	39	74	61	43	92	82	88	93
	Theft and handling stolen goods	839	725	822	708	2,516	2,053	2,386	2,997
	Sub-total	1,346	1,302	1,376	1,254	4,215	3,757	4,028	4,758

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2005-08[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	Offence type	Age 10-17				Age 18 and over			
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
Hertfordshire	Violence against the person	146	111	116	85	537	468	403	397
	Sexual offences	2	7	10	6	75	66	77	57
	Burglary	81	106	87	64	206	217	211	234
	Robbery	50	54	26	50	48	75	71	74
	Theft and handling stolen goods	323	288	271	261	1,402	1,225	1,202	1,283
	Sub-total	602	566	510	466	2,268	2,051	1,964	2,045
Humberside	Violence against the person	142	161	176	156	659	693	777	703
	Sexual offences	16	13	15	9	100	96	89	99
	Burglary	167	160	161	137	389	372	397	401
	Robbery	33	39	39	35	47	73	70	98
	Theft and handling stolen goods	402	309	407	379	1,700	1,269	1,399	1,441
	Sub-total	760	682	798	716	2,895	2,503	2,732	2,742
Kent	Violence against the person	148	144	125	152	575	623	655	760
	Sexual offences	6	3	2	11	97	83	108	153
	Burglary	155	175	177	143	403	360	462	470
	Robbery	34	36	59	39	62	81	87	91
	Theft and handling stolen goods	540	470	588	471	2,325	1,851	1,801	1,833
	Sub-total	883	828	951	816	3,462	2,998	3,113	3,307
Lancashire	Violence against the person	278	311	319	271	1,073	1,287	1,397	1,350
	Sexual offences	24	20	25	18	133	158	196	183
	Burglary	294	313	331	274	648	745	817	730
	Robbery	52	79	93	89	121	119	158	150
	Theft and handling stolen goods	462	527	558	446	2,698	2,512	2,822	2,910
	Sub-total	1,110	1,250	1,326	1,098	4,673	4,821	5,390	5,323
Leicestershire	Violence against the person	155	151	165	144	734	615	609	563
	Sexual offences	15	8	19	5	90	82	91	77
	Burglary	132	128	99	111	271	276	283	300
	Robbery	43	51	54	46	65	48	61	74
	Theft and handling stolen goods	386	339	414	315	1,477	1,400	1,453	1,351
	Sub-total	731	677	751	621	2,637	2,421	2,497	2,365
Lincolnshire	Violence against the person	66	44	59	52	300	358	351	373
	Sexual offences	5	5	6	3	60	54	53	49
	Burglary	63	36	49	46	175	174	177	185
	Robbery	2	9	8	4	17	21	14	25
	Theft and handling stolen goods	125	141	146	139	954	1,021	1,013	1,243
	Sub-total	261	235	268	244	1,506	1,628	1,608	1,875
Merseyside	Violence against the person	261	297	293	253	1,160	1,238	1,211	1,142
	Sexual offences	13	13	15	15	106	106	105	95
	Burglary	232	224	239	165	463	467	534	525
	Robbery	68	89	100	53	133	165	135	117

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2005-08[1, 2, 3]

		Age 10-17				Age 18 and over			
Police force area	*Offence type*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
	Theft and handling stolen goods	431	407	485	348	2,926	2,508	3,118	3,129
	Sub-total	1,005	1,030	1,132	834	4,788	4,484	5,103	5,008
Metropolitan Police	Violence against the person	1,057	1,092	1,142	1,333	5,003	5,076	4,868	5,451
	Sexual offences	66	57	78	87	546	613	629	692
	Burglary	594	624	682	562	2,437	2,468	2,457	2,604
	Robbery	1,106	1,533	1,791	1,570	847	1,041	1,136	1,175
	Theft and handling stolen goods	1,688	1,850	2,199	1,949	11,878	12,709	12,650	12,891
	Sub-total	4,511	5,156	5,892	5,501	20,711	21,907	21,740	22,813
Norfolk	Violence against the person	58	69	55	76	365	401	360	344
	Sexual offences	11	5	8	11	70	71	91	83
	Burglary	39	57	53	49	177	160	165	178
	Robbery	4	9	5	10	29	27	41	39
	Theft and handling stolen goods	170	197	204	204	1,183	1,320	1,215	1,214
	Sub-total	282	337	325	350	1,824	1,979	1,872	1,858
North Yorkshire	Violence against the person	68	91	120	102	445	408	479	442
	Sexual offences	3	8	7	10	62	60	85	59
	Burglary	40	62	67	60	198	187	165	213
	Robbery	10	7	11	7	36	27	24	16
	Theft and handling stolen goods	220	239	290	278	1,289	1,093	1,018	1,208
	Sub-total	341	407	495	457	2,030	1,775	1,771	1,938
Northamptonshire	Violence against the person	40	35	45	64	329	290	271	359
	Sexual offences	3	—	—	2	37	39	50	55
	Burglary	32	44	51	65	159	172	138	196
	Robbery	14	20	55	40	47	43	59	61
	Theft and handling stolen goods	53	84	185	155	975	853	742	926
	Sub-total	142	183	336	326	1,547	1,397	1,260	1,597
Northumbria	Violence against the person	308	233	309	313	1,072	1,109	1,218	1,133
	Sexual offences	14	14	21	15	121	139	136	130
	Burglary	165	205	190	161	510	555	625	615
	Robbery	46	43	48	38	115	124	126	95
	Theft and handling stolen goods	647	634	812	737	3,073	3,171	3,583	3,805
	Sub-total	1,180	1,129	1,380	1,264	4,891	5,098	5,688	5,778
Nottinghamshire	Violence against the person	152	163	181	150	685	692	673	633
	Sexual offences	17	7	16	10	99	97	104	91
	Burglary	213	210	192	170	422	447	450	537
	Robbery	118	86	84	63	105	114	69	128
	Theft and handling stolen goods	398	367	317	295	2,030	1,835	1,933	2,088
	Sub-total	898	833	790	688	3,341	3,185	3,229	3,477
South Yorkshire	Violence against the person	213	215	214	246	939	968	1,003	1,067

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2005-08[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	Offence type	Age 10-17				Age 18 and over			
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Sexual offences	16	15	6	12	138	114	114	110
	Burglary	154	149	155	156	535	558	578	678
	Robbery	78	74	101	75	104	137	145	120
	Theft and handling stolen goods	527	498	571	479	2,860	2,544	2,756	3,475
	Sub-total	988	951	1,047	968	4,576	4,321	4,596	5,450
Staffordshire	Violence against the person	154	132	129	108	583	659	631	654
	Sexual offences	13	11	13	11	93	96	106	85
	Burglary	112	109	81	91	305	299	369	328
	Robbery	23	25	20	30	50	40	53	53
	Theft and handling stolen goods	321	259	316	238	1,508	1,391	1,578	1,688
	Sub-total	623	536	559	478	2,539	2,485	2,737	2,808
Suffolk	Violence against the person	102	109	86	62	383	462	396	352
	Sexual offences	8	9	5	7	65	64	58	54
	Burglary	99	84	88	58	149	148	160	131
	Robbery	12	16	24	27	30	25	20	28
	Theft and handling stolen goods	322	315	252	176	885	833	886	829
	Sub-total	543	533	455	330	1,512	1,532	1,520	1,394
Surrey	Violence against the person	57	70	59	44	216	256	287	293
	Sexual offences	3	2	1	3	34	50	51	57
	Burglary	47	57	48	44	178	153	161	151
	Robbery	28	31	19	18	46	64	65	35
	Theft and handling stolen goods	174	172	194	171	775	690	810	976
	Sub-total	309	332	321	280	1,249	1,213	1,374	1,512
Sussex	Violence against the person	160	168	208	163	620	680	709	732
	Sexual offences	14	15	17	9	80	107	129	116
	Burglary	127	129	128	114	336	337	328	314
	Robbery	43	43	38	31	58	63	82	86
	Theft and handling stolen goods	557	510	543	517	1,843	1,764	1,919	2,171
	Sub-total	901	865	934	834	2,937	2,951	3,167	3,419
Thames Valley	Violence against the person	183	191	191	158	862	957	918	931
	Sexual offences	7	16	15	13	147	147	144	131
	Burglary	184	172	183	149	501	477	491	532
	Robbery	60	72	73	94	143	117	141	148
	Theft and handling stolen goods	552	539	593	504	2,629	2,568	2,674	2,885
	Sub-total	986	990	1,055	918	4,282	4,266	4,368	4,627
Warwickshire	Violence against the person	46	62	46	53	243	264	256	247
	Sexual offences	2	4	6	2	28	29	26	34
	Burglary	41	44	35	50	130	103	115	137
	Robbery	21	21	11	6	33	49	38	35
	Theft and handling stolen goods	107	135	142	121	460	576	574	636
	Sub-total	217	266	240	232	894	1,021	1,009	1,089

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2005-08[1, 2, 3]

		Age 10-17				Age 18 and over			
Police force area	*Offence type*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
West Mercia	Violence against the person	166	185	182	145	672	724	727	677
	Sexual offences	27	15	18	12	111	102	91	78
	Burglary	131	125	130	125	319	334	273	295
	Robbery	30	21	23	21	45	62	52	42
	Theft and handling stolen goods	331	376	383	326	1,676	1,606	1,669	1,834
	Sub-total	685	722	736	629	2,823	2,828	2,812	2,926
West Midlands	Violence against the person	416	514	477	452	2,111	2,334	2,133	2,096
	Sexual offences	38	35	29	30	257	268	287	274
	Burglary	288	283	296	253	1,016	1,126	1,152	1,138
	Robbery	335	367	358	355	431	449	483	460
	Theft and handling stolen goods	827	938	994	841	5,563	5,869	6,528	6,865
	Sub-total	1,904	2,137	2,154	1,931	9,378	10,046	10,583	10,833
West Yorkshire	Violence against the person	289	236	264	267	1,448	1,226	1,384	1,489
	Sexual offences	25	24	21	25	225	189	221	215
	Burglary	435	334	330	416	962	931	1,065	1,048
	Robbery	180	155	215	211	218	202	275	272
	Theft and handling stolen goods	956	823	941	856	4,199	4,168	4,564	4,941
	Sub-total	1,885	1,572	1,771	1,775	7,052	6,716	7,509	7,965
Wiltshire	Violence against the person	67	92	66	81	332	368	330	344
	Sexual offences	4	8	5	4	38	51	36	43
	Burglary	72	84	59	36	155	157	131	138
	Robbery	11	10	21	9	28	23	31	36
	Theft and handling stolen goods	191	193	162	130	800	715	676	608
	Sub-total	345	387	313	260	1,353	1,314	1,204	1,169
Dyfed-Powys	Violence against the person	55	45	57	34	307	305	309	224
	Sexual offences	3	1	6	2	34	20	24	23
	Burglary	42	54	57	52	105	109	127	159
	Robbery	1	9	6	3	9	11	7	19
	Theft and handling stolen goods	124	111	105	131	504	474	471	496
	Sub-total	225	220	231	222	959	919	938	921
Gwent	Violence against the person	89	92	101	63	396	474	465	368
	Sexual offences	9	5	3	7	57	51	56	35
	Burglary	73	99	86	67	200	207	204	184
	Robbery	13	14	13	12	28	21	12	23
	Theft and handling stolen goods	176	175	174	163	775	834	857	870
	Sub-total	360	385	377	312	1,456	1,587	1,594	1,480
North Wales	Violence against the person	100	112	94	91	504	565	558	526
	Sexual offences	4	5	5	11	50	47	55	68
	Burglary	81	72	62	71	194	211	205	245
	Robbery	10	11	13	6	13	26	26	21

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected offences, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2005-08[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	Offence type	Age 10-17 2005	2006	2007	2008	Age 18 and over 2005	2006	2007	2008
	Theft and handling stolen goods	214	162	172	190	884	748	860	1,050
	Sub-total	409	362	346	369	1,645	1,597	1,704	1,910
South Wales	Violence against the person	159	189	172	173	1,221	1,032	1,085	981
	Sexual offences	27	23	34	15	120	101	75	117
	Burglary	139	159	146	132	445	462	542	553
	Robbery	24	39	61	63	77	69	92	101
	Theft and handling stolen goods	497	358	330	354	2,487	2,134	2,112	2,471
	Sub-total	846	768	743	737	4,350	3,798	3,906	4,223
Total	Violence against the person	7,428	7,520	7,679	7,378	33,501	34,344	34,272	34,141
	Sexual offences	554	492	543	517	4,254	4,409	4,532	4,618
	Burglary	6,042	6,167	6,131	5,415	16,909	16,788	17,690	18,467
	Robbery	3,079	3,701	4,115	3,618	4,004	4,404	4,714	4,857
	Theft and handling stolen goods	17,059	16,340	18,220	15,954	86,715	82,701	87,730	94,967
Total England and Wales		34,162	34,220	36,688	32,882	145,383	142,646	148,938	157,050

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Convictions: Badgers

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have received custodial sentences which have not been suspended for offences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 in each year since 2007; what the length of each such sentence was; on what dates such sentences were handed down; and how much has been received in fine payments for offences under the Act in each year since it came into effect; [324492]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* proceeded against and *(b)* convicted of offences under the provisions of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 in each year since 2007. [324634]

Claire Ward: The available information is provided in the following tables.

Data for 2009 will be available when Sentencing Statistics 2009 is published later this year.

The specific date when a sentence was passed cannot be provided as this would allow an individual to be easily identifiable which is contrary to the Ministry's data protection policy. Information has therefore been provided on the month sentence was passed. The total fine payment rate is not available for specific offences, but information has been provided on the number of fines and the total monetary value of fines imposed under the Protection of Badgers Act. The overall estimated fine payment rate for all financial penalties by financial year is shown in the following table:

Financial year	Payment rate—England and Wales (percentage)
2003-04	74
2004-05	80
2005-06	83
2006-07	92
2007-08	95

Data on payment rates prior to April 2003 is not calculated in a comparable manner.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for selected offences, England and Wales, 2007 and 2008[1,2,3]

Statute	Offence description	2007 Proceeded against	Found guilty	Immediate custody	2008[3] Proceeded against	Found guilty	Immediate custody
Badgers Act 1973 as amended by Criminal Justice Act 1991 S.26 and Badgers Act 1991 S.1	Offences of cruelty to badgers and special protection for badgers and their setts	20	6	[4]1	22	11	[5]2

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for selected offences, England and Wales, 2007 and 2008[1,2,3]

Statute	Offence description	2007 Proceeded against	2007 Found guilty	2007 Immediate custody	2008[3] Proceeded against	2008[3] Found guilty	2008[3] Immediate custody
Badgers (further protection) Act 1991	Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified	10	5	0	14	11	0

[1] The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
[4] An immediate custodial sentence of four months passed in June.
[5] One sentence of six months passed in March, one sentence of one month passed in December.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Number of fines and monetary value of fines imposed under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, 1992 to 2008

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number of fines issued	31	23	15	18	8	6	10	14
Value of fines imposed (£)[1]	5,500	5,425	3,760	7,250	2,000	2,100	2,215	580

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of fines issued	14	31	22	13	9	9	4	4	13
Value of fines imposed (£)[1]	1,415	2,185	1,285	4,960	860	2,510	275	310	3,015

[1] Due to changes in the way these figures have been extracted they may show small differences to previously released figures.
Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. This data has been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. This data is presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
Source:
Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Crime Prevention: Females

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will continue funding after March 2011 for the one-stop shop women's community projects to prevent and reduce offending by women funded from the £15.6 million announced in February 2009. [325132]

Maria Eagle: Work is now well under way to sustain this approach. Directors of Offender Management (DOMs) are currently working to support the Women's Community Projects (WCPs) in their future sustainability efforts and to demonstrate their effectiveness at providing effective interventions for women offenders and women at risk of offending. DOMs, in conjunction with probation trust/boards, will have a lead role in ensuring appropriate commissioning and joint commissioning of services for women offenders to draw in the services of a range of local agencies. Every one of the DOMs new commissioning plans includes a focus on women and they now manage all of the contracts for the WCPs. New performance monitoring arrangements in place will also ensure that we continue to meet the specific needs of women in the criminal justice system.

Custodial Treatment: Females

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to ring fence savings from a reduction in custodial capacity for women to support women's community provision; and if he will make a statement. [325131]

Maria Eagle: In December 2009 the Government committed to reduce the women's prison estate by 400 places by March 2012 and to divert resources from custody to the community to help sustain the multi-agency Women's Community Projects (WCPs) and other community provision established through grant funding. Subject to a sustained reduction in the women's prison population and evidence of the impact of the WCPs the National Offender Management Service has agreed to release funding that will be used by the directors of Offender Management to help sustain existing provision and to continue to develop a network of community provision which meets the needs of women offenders and women at risk of offending.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions were brought and *(b)* convictions were secured for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each local authority area in the North West in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [325040]

Claire Ward: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, in the North West Government office region, by police force area, in 2008 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at local authority area level.

Court data for 2009 are planned for publication in autumn 2010.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in the North West Government office region, by police force area, 2008[1, 2]

Police force area	Proceeded against	Found guilty
Cheshire	19	14
Cumbria	16	10
Greater Manchester	46	34

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in the North West Government office region, by police force area, 2008[1, 2]

Police force area	Proceeded against	Found guilty
Lancashire	40	28
Merseyside	51	43
Total North West region	172	129

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its agencies have spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324424]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry Justice does not hold a central record of leisure room facilities across its estate. Details of these can be obtained only by contacting each area of the Department and it's agencies individually which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324557]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not provide subsidised gym facilities for its staff. A small number of workplace gyms are available to departmental staff but their running costs are met entirely by unsubsidised membership fees. Gym contracts are run either by an external provider or by a committee of staff members.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324687]

Mr. Wills: Interior design is included within the total office refurbishment scheme costs across the Ministry of Justice estate and could only be made available at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324972]

Mr. Wills: The following table shows how many voltage optimisation units and equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by the Ministry of Justice.

	Number of voltage optimisation units and equivalent technologies
Ministry of Justice HQ	1 voltage optimisation unit
National Offender Management Service	5 voltage optimisation units and equivalent technologies installed
Her Majesty's Court Service	39 voltage optimisation units and equivalent technologies installed in various buildings across its estate
Tribunals Service	1 unit currently installed across its estate
Her Majesty's Land Registry	22 voltage optimisation units and equivalent technologies installed
National Archives	4 voltage optimisation units and equivalent technologies installed
Total	72

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in current prices. [324798]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice press office operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, dealing with all media relations for the Department and its agencies from the international, national and regional media. Communications in all its forms is an important element of ensuring that the public know and understand the work of the Ministry of Justice and its agencies and how taxpayers' money is being spent.

Information relating to the Lord Chancellors' Department (the Ministry of Justice's last but one predecessor) could be retrieved only at disproportionate cost.

Press officers

The cost of press officers, including contractors and agency staff and excluding support staff, is as follows:

	£000
2008-09	2,219

Communications officers

Media officers are interpreted as communications officers in this answer. They include intranet/internet staff, event organisation, marketing and publishing staff and others involved in communications roles. Expenditure, including contractors and agency staff within the head office team, is as follows:

	£000
2008-09	4,694

The costs of press officers and communications officers relate to Ministry of Justice headquarters and its four executive agencies (HM Courts Service, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), the Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian).

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325193]

Mr. Wills: No formal complaints in relation to the Ministry of Justice website have been received in the last three years. However users are invited to help the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to maintain the quality of the website by providing comments and suggestions for improvement. All comments received are investigated and actioned as part of MoJ's ongoing programme of website maintenance and support. Numerical records for comments received are not held centrally and it would not be possible to collect this information from previous years except at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325211]

Mr. Wills: Expenditure on external website design consultants in each of the last three years for the departmental website—www.justice.gov.uk—was as follows:

	£
2007-08	30,960
2008-09	37,409
2009-10	8,250

These figures include costs for website design changes. External maintenance, content management and training costs for in-house staff are not included. The majority of work done to support and develop the Department's external website is carried out by in-house staff, who manage the website content and also the design, testing and implementation of improvements to the website on an ongoing basis.

As there is more use of the internet for Government services, we need to make information about the work of the Department more readily available to citizens and the media, enhancing transparency and accountability for what we do. All our internet users—who include legal practitioners, academics and researchers—are able to use the range of resources published on our website either to work more efficiently within the justice system or to engage with the Department's day-to-day work and to contribute to our published consultations on proposals for change. Our investment in web services aims to enhance the user experience, providing easier access to MoJ information and services and delivering in a way that meets audience needs.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department, its predecessor and its agencies spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what those items were. [324717]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007. Prior to 2007-08, the information requested can be extracted from predecessor departments only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on branded promotional items in the last two years is shown as follows:

Ministry of Justice headquarters

Calendar year	*Item*	*Cost (£)*[1]
2008	Mouse Mats	1,901
	Pens	1,783
	Leaflets	15,654
	Banners and Stands	2,444
	Letterheads, complement slips	556
	Posters	6,412
	Lanyards	1,888
	Mugs	1,163
	Polo Shirts	708
	Total	32,509
2009	Pens	400
	Leaflets	6,188
	Banners and Stands	2,829
	Posters	4,386
	Post-it Notes	409
	Letterheads, complement slips	483
	Lanyards	753
	Glass Awards	778
	Table Cloth	280
	Polo Shirts	921
	Total	17,436

[1] These figures are exclusive of VAT.

The largest item of expenditure was on leaflets to explain to the public the functions and services delivered by the Ministry of Justice as a new Department of State.

Her Majesty's Court Service

Financial Year	*Item*	*Cost (£)*[1]
2007-08	Key rings	2,753
	Pens	1,571
	Mouse Mats	715
	Probate Balloons	583
	Pandas	825
	Total	6,447
2008-09	Key rings	2,797
	Pens	6,004
	Marketing Materials—pens, pads and pencils	725
	Mouse Mats	2,420
	Total	11,946

[1] These figures are exclusive of VAT.

In 2007-08 HMCS purchased branded trophies for the HMCS Awards at a cost of £414.68 (exclusive of VAT).

Office of the Public Guardian

Item	*Cost (£)*[1]
Banners and Stands	432
1,200 Launch Leaflets	253
Recycled pens	3,183
Trio Highlighters	2,553
Post-it Note pads	2,055
Recycled Mouse pads	927

Office of the Public Guardian

Item	Cost (£)[1]
Mini Cards	658
Bags	2,158
Mental Capacity Act DVDs	1,803
DVD production	14,950
Forms and guidance CDs	12,410
"Who would look after your finances?" leaflet	2,986
Sundry other items	1,981
Total	43,709

[1] These figure are exclusive of VAT

All of the above expenditure was incurred when the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) was created on 1 October 2007 as a result of the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The purpose of the promotional items was to raise public awareness of the Office of the Public Guardian and its new responsibilities. DVDs and CDs were distributed to OPG customers from October 2007 until stocks ran out in 2009 (CDs) and early 2010 (DVDs). Banners ordered for the launch of the OPG have subsequently been used at exhibit opportunities from 2007 to date, together with other leftover items.

Tribunal Service

In 2007-08 the Tribunal Service purchased 2,000 eco-friendly cotton bags for £2,241 (exclusive of VAT). There was no promotional spend in 2008-09.

National Offenders Management Service

The National Offenders Management Service (NOMS) accounting system does not enable expenditure on promotional items to be identified separately from other office supplies and stationery expenditure. Promotional expenditure could only be identified by circularising local NOMS business units, including 134 prisons and 42 local probation boards and trusts, who would be required to examine their local records to identify relevant expenditure, this would incur disproportionate cost.

Electoral Systems

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has made a recent estimate of the cost of holding a general election using *(a)* the existing electoral system and *(b)* the alternative vote system. [324493]

Mr. Wills: The Government have now made the Parliamentary Elections (Returning Officers' Charges) Order 2010. From the information set out in that order it can be estimated that in Great Britain if the forthcoming general election is held on 6 May 2010 and therefore combined with other elections to be held on that day, the cost of the conduct of the poll would be £82.1 million; if it is held at any other time, the cost of the conduct of the poll would be £89.6 million.

We have not carried out a detailed assessment of the possible cost of conducting a general election under the alternative vote system. However, the features of a general election using the alternative vote system would broadly be the same as under the existing system: for example, in terms of the provision of ballot papers and polling stations. The count process might take longer in some cases, where no candidate wins outright on the first round; however, recounts may already extend the time taken to count under the existing system.

Employment Tribunals Service: Rules of Procedure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when revised court civil procedure rules relating to unpaid employment tribunal awards will come into effect. [325332]

Bridget Prentice: The revised civil procedure rules relating to unpaid employment tribunal awards are due to come into effect on 6 April 2010.

Funerals: Local Authorities

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate has been made of the number of funerals which were carried out by local authorities in the last 12 months. [324482]

Bridget Prentice: We have not made any such estimate, the information is not held centrally.

General Election 2010: Isle of Wight

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of transporting election literature for Freepost delivery from the Isle of Wight to Portsmouth; and what requirements there are on candidates to declare the cost of delivering election literature. [325051]

Mr. Wills: Under section 91 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 ("the 1983 Act"), candidates at parliamentary elections are entitled to send free of charge for postage either one election communication to each elector, or one to each household, in the constituency in which they are standing, subject to any reasonable terms and conditions specified by the universal service provider (the Royal Mail). The cost of the delivery of candidates' election communications to UK addresses by the universal service provider is met by the Consolidated Fund. The Government have made no estimate of the cost of transporting election literature from one location to another for onward delivery by the universal service provider under the provisions of the 1983 Act, since these costs are not met from the Consolidated Fund.

Under the provisions of the 1983 Act, within 35 days after the day on which the result of the election is declared, the election agent of every candidate is required to deliver to the appropriate officer a statement of election expenses incurred by or on behalf of the candidate. Election expenses are those which are used for the purposes of the candidate's election and are incurred in respect of matters listed in Part 1 of schedule 4A of the 1983 Act. Under that schedule, expenses in respect of unsolicited material addressed to electors include design costs and other costs in connection with preparing, producing or distributing such material.

HM Courts Service: Debt Collection

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court enforcement officers HM Courts Service have employed in each financial year since April 2005. [323981]

Bridget Prentice: The number of court enforcement officers employed by HM Courts Service in each financial year is shown in the following table.

	Total
2005	561
2006	575
2007	541
2008	492
2009	497

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court enforcement officers HM Courts Service employed in each HM Court Service region in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008 and *(e)* 2009. [323982]

Bridget Prentice: The number of court enforcement officers employed by HM Courts Service by regions between 2005-09 is shown in the following table.

Region	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009
London Region	98	95	87	78	71
Midlands Region	104	108	103	101	99
North East Region	109	118	113	105	94
North West Region	82	81	92	90	85
South East Region	76	93	91	65	62
South West Region	52	55	42	36	61
Wales Region	60	65	53	37	45
Total	561	575	541	492	497

House of Lords: Reform

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the annual running cost of an elected second chamber of *(a)* 435 and *(b)* 300 members; and what the estimated cost of transitional arrangements would be in each case. [324495]

Mr. Wills: The overall cost of a reformed second chamber is subject to a number of variables. As set out in the 2008 White Paper, the Government's intention is to ensure that the cost of a reformed second chamber is maintained at the current or at a lower level.

The £88m support costs which full-time elected members might require will be offset by the fact that with fewer members, the reformed second chamber will be smaller than the current House of Lords. The exact cost of the reformed second chamber will depend on the pay and allowances of Members.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many residential property transactions there were in each local authority area in England in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [324491]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is able to provide information based on the total number of residential properties sold at full value[1] for 2009. The figures cover each local authority in England and Wales. The information has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

[1] Full value = residential property transactions where the full price has been paid. The figures exclude a number of transactions including Right to Buy sales at a discount, properties sold by way of a gift and properties sold under a compulsory purchase or court order.

Human Trafficking: Convictions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British citizens have been (i) convicted and (ii) imprisoned in relation to human trafficking offences in each year since 1998. [314749]

Alan Johnson: I have been asked to reply.

The offences of trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour were introduced under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004.

From the commencement of these Acts until the end of 2008 there were a total of 113 convictions resulting in 110 terms of imprisonment. Of those convicted and imprisoned up to the end of 2008, six were British citizens and 107 non-British citizens.

The statistics broken down by year of sentence are as follows:

	Total	British National	Foreign National
2004	3	0	3
2005	21	1	20
2006	29	1	28
2007	22	1	21
2008	38	3	35

Figures for the full year of 2009 are not yet available.

Legal Aid: Gurkhas

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much the Legal Services Commission has paid to *(a)* Howe and Company and *(b)* each other company in respect of legal aid for ex-Gurkhas wishing to settle in the UK; [R] [321264]

(2) how many ex-Gurkhas had been granted legal aid in respect of their application to settle in the UK on the latest date for which figures are available. [R] [321265]

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much legal aid has been paid to Howe and Co. for the provision of immigration advice to former Gurkha soldiers; [322321]

(2) how much on average has been paid in legal aid for each case in which Howe and Co. has represented former Gurkha soldiers. [322322]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission records the number of claims from providers for immigration cases but not in greater detail. There is therefore no record of the number of ex-Gurkhas granted legal aid in respect of their application to settle in the UK or the legal aid costs involved in their application.

However immigration entry clearance applications funded through legal aid are paid at a fixed fee of £260 plus any disbursements, unless they are exceptional. In the last two years Howe and Co. have made claims for 52 cases that include applications for entry clearance. As stated above it is not possible to confirm how many of these relate to ex-Gurkhas.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to monitor the standard of legal advice provided to ex-Gurkhas by *(a)* the Gurkha Army Ex-Servicemen's Organisation and *(b)* Howe and Company. [R] [321266]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission is responsible for monitoring the standard of publicly funded legal advice provided under the legal aid scheme by contracted suppliers. This includes strict contract quality standards, audit and peer review. The firm Howe and Co. holds a contract with the Legal Services Commission and would be expected to comply with requirements administered by the Law Society to ensure all advisers doing publicly funded work are properly accredited. The Gurkha Army Ex-Servicemen's Organisation based in Nepal does not provide publicly funded legal advice.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Legal Services Commission on the provision of legal aid to firms representing former Gurkha soldiers. [322320]

Bridget Prentice: Lord Bach the Minister responsible for Legal Aid in England and Wales met Legal Services Commission (LSC) officials on this subject on 10 and 25 March 2010. LSC officials interviewed staff from Howe and Co. to ensure that the firm has acted in accordance with the terms of its contract and the provisions of the Funding Code.

Local Inmate Data System IT system

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Local Inmate Data System IT system was introduced for prisons in England and Wales; and whether his Department plans to upgrade or replace the system. [324865]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service Local Inmate Database System (LIDS) was introduced in 1989. It is being replaced by a new case management system, called Prison-NOMIS (Prison-National Offender Management Information System). Prison-NOMIS is a national system with a centralised database. It is on schedule to be deployed to public prisons by summer 2010.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were employed by each director of offender management within the National Offender Management Service on the latest date for which figures are available; [324859]

(2) how many staff were employed in *(a)* Prison Service area offices and *(b)* Regional Offender Management offices on 1 January 2008; [324860]

(3) how many people were employed in the National Offender Management Service head office and regional offices at 31 December in each year from 2004 to 2009. [324869]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to answer I gave the hon. Member for Walthamstow (Mr. Gerrard) on 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 246-48W. Information on the number of staff employed in Regional Offender Management Offices in January 2008 is not available. At that time the staff reported to the Home Office but the records are no longer available and would require a substantial reactivation exercise that would entail disproportionate cost, to obtain.

The closest available data relates to October 2008, when there were 451 staff in Prison Service area offices and 119 staff in Regional Offender Management offices.

The number of staff employed within each office is provided in the following table:

Staff employed within Director of Offender Management Offices, 31 December 2009

Region	*Staff employed*	*Staff declared surplus*[1]	*Vacancies*
East Midlands	53	2	8
East of England	30	1	14
London	32	6	13
North East	40	5	2
North West	81	19	12
South East	98	8	23
South West	31	8	14
Wales	26	0	12
West Midlands	38	6	13
Yorkshire and Humberside	35	6	3
Total	483	61	114

[1] Staff declared surplus are also included in the 'Staff employed' column.

The process of change in the NOMS organisations in the nine English regions and Wales in 2009, covered 576 jobs and the new structure, which is now in place, has reduced this number by 180 to 396.

The information for the national headquarters does not include staff reporting through the NOMS Shared Service Centre or area service teams who are based in prisons but organised on a regional basis.

Regional and National headquarters 31 December 2004 to 2009

	Region	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Area/Regional Office	East Midlands	37	54	61	56	62	53
	East of England	34	44	47	44	36	30
	London	25	28	30	28	37	32
	North East	20	28	38	38	41	40
	North West	126	182	210	205	80	81
	South East	125	143	127	116	121	98

Regional and National headquarters 31 December 2004 to 2009

Region	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
South west	r32	36	34	26	25	31
Wales	13	16	19	18	27	26
West Midlands	49	48	54	42	34	38
Yorkshire and Humberside	39	48	55	29	35	35
Area/Regional Office Total	501	627	675	602	518	483
National Headquarters[1]	1906	1351	1398	1297	2207	2188

[1] In 2005 a large number of staff transferred to the original NOMS headquarters, which was part of the core Home Office. The staff transferred back in 2008 when NOMS HQ was formed. These staff are not included in the table for the period when they were part of the core Home Office.

Polling Stations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the provisions of the Electoral Administration Act 2005 on signing at polling stations have not been commenced. [324483]

Mr. Wills: The Government have not yet concluded how this measure could most effectively be implemented. We must ensure, however, that any approach to this issue is aligned with other reforms to the registration and electoral processes.

Prison Service: Pensions

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether long-term state pension costs of retired staff are taken into account when calculating the cost of a prison place in England and Wales. [324868]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Walthamstow (Mr. Gerrard) on 9 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 248W.

Prison Service: Uniforms

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what protective equipment and clothing is issued to prison staff. [324088]

Maria Eagle: The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 requires employers to carry out an assessment of the significant risks to which staff are exposed and to implement control measures effectively to manage the risks. Control measures may include provision of personal protective equipment. The range and type of equipment provided will depend on the risk.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) carries out risk assessments for the different duties staff conduct. In the case of staff working in Prisons, a variety of personal protection equipment and clothing is provided, dependant on the situation and duties staff are conducting. Types of safety equipment made available to staff would include safety footwear, gloves, overalls, high visibility jackets, hard hats and protection in the event of cold weather and for the head, eyes, hearing and respiratory system.

Control and restraint equipment and clothing such as helmets, shields, fire resistant overalls and leg protectors are also available to specially trained prison officers. Batons are carried by staff trained in their use in those prisons in which their deployment has been approved. Vests which offer ballistic protection, including protection against knives, are provided to a range of prison staff in circumstances where particular risks exist including some local and national control and restraint operations and some operations involving specialist interventions.

Prisoners

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any prisoners have been charged with the offence of corrupting a public official during the last 12 months. [324862]

Claire Ward: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) on 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1346W.

Prisons

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent estimate he has made of the level of serious organised crime involving drug trafficking in prisons in England and Wales; [323926]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of serious organised crime activities being carried out in prisons in England and Wales. [323980]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 5 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1470W.

Covert criminal activity is, of its nature, very difficult to quantify. Prisons have a well established security information reporting framework. Where concerns are identified about a prisoner's potential criminal activity, prisons can draw on a range of measures to identify and disrupt that activity.

The National Offender Management Service is also fully engaged in action to address serious and organised crime strategically, including the work identified in the Government report "Extending Our Reach: A Comprehensive Approach to Tackling Serious Organised Crime" to develop a strategy to manage serious organised criminals whilst in prison.

Prisons: Mobile Phones

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of illicit mobile telephones in prisons in England and

those telephones were found in the possession of *(a)* staff and *(b)* prisoners; and how many were found in communal areas in each such month. [323925]

Maria Eagle: The Government are committed to reducing the number of mobile phones in prisons. We have already strengthened the law through the Offender Management Act 2007, which made it an offence with a penalty of up to two years' imprisonment to bring a mobile phone or component into a prison. We are also taking forward legislation through the Crime and Security Bill to criminalise. the possession of devices, including mobile telephones within a prison without authorisation.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not hold centrally disaggregated information on the location or ownership of phones seized. Many phones and component parts are not attributable to individuals. Prisons in England and Wales are instructed to send mobile phones and SIM cards found to a central unit for analysis, it is from this unit's records that this answer is based The figures contained in the tables have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing data, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. These data are not subject to audit.

The figures understate the actual number of finds, because they do not include items retained by the police for evidential purposes and phones not submitted for other reasons. It is not always appropriate to send phones to the central unit and some phones sent are not interrogated. These have not been included in these figures. NOMS is putting in place new procedures to improve the accuracy of these statistics.

Tackling mobile phones in prison presents substantial and increasing technological challenges, and while the numbers of phones found clearly indicates the scale of the challenge, it is also a reflection of prisons' increasing success in finding them and better reporting. The following table shows the number of mobile phones and SIM cards that have been received from each of the prisons over the last 12 months.

Mobile phone and SIM cards submitted to central unit (March 2009-February 2010)

	March		April		May		June		July		August		September	
	M	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
High Security														
Belmarsh	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Full Sutton	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Frankland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long Lartin	1	1	—	—	1	2	1	2	—	3	—	—	1	1
Manchester	3	3	8	6	12	15	1	1	5	4	1	2	5	1
Wakefield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Woodhill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitemoor	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
Total	7	7	8	6	14	20	2	5	5	7	2	4	6	2
London														
Brixton	—	—	25	23	1	1	7	6	3	2	—	—	2	2
Feltham	14	19	10	12	14	11	10	12	3	3	7	9	3	5
Holloway	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	1	1	1
Latchmere House	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	2	—	—	1	—	2	—
Pentonville	—	—	1	1	17	13	17	10	10	14	13	13	10	11
Wandsworth	8	7	9	12	—	—	—	—	21	19	—	4	—	—
Wormwood Scrubs	8	7	14	9	8	12	8	6	3	6	13	11	12	15
Total	30	27	59	57	41	39	49	40	42	43	36	38	30	34
Wales														
Cardiff	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	4	3	2	3	3	1	1
Swansea	1	2	3	3	—	—	4	5	1	1	5	3	6	5
Usk/Prescoed	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Parc	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	4	1	—	1	1	1	2
Total	3	4	6	5	3	5	11	13	5	3	10	7	8	8
South East														
Albany	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aylesbury	1	2	2	6	1	2	2	2	12	11	—	—	8	7
Blantyre House	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	2	2	—	—
Bronzefield	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	3	4	4	4
Bullingdon	4	3	2	2	4	5	4	2	—	1	1	1	1	—
Camp Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	3	—	—
Canterbury	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	2	3	1	—	—	2	1
Coldingley	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	3	4

Mobile phone and SIM cards submitted to central unit (March 2009-February 2010)

	March		April		May		June		July		August		September	
	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S
Cookham Wood	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Dover	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	5	2	—
Downview	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Sutton Park	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Elmley	3	5	5	2	6	6	4	4	—	1	1	2	4	7
Ford	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Grendon	1	1	18	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haslar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Highdown	16	14	6	2	—	—	—	—	5	4	5	4	4	3
Huntercombe	1	2	—	—	2	4	—	—	1	1	2	2	—	—
Kingston	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lewes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maidstone	2	2	—	—	—	—	3	4	3	3	1	3	5	6
Parkhurst	2	6	1	1	2	—	2	1	2	3	2	1	10	9
Reading		2	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	2	2	4	1	—
Rochester	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Send	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—
Springhill	—	—	—	—	5	3	8	5	8	6	1	1	—	1
Standford Hill	1	1	2	2	16	10	8	4	14	11	6	3	6	5
Swaleside	2	3	4	4	6	7	6	10	10	9	9	8	4	5
Winchester	3	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1
Total	47	57	46	36	48	42	44	36	71	66	46	44	56	53
South West														
Ashfield	1	2	—	1	6	6	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
Bristol	—	—	3	3	10	8	6	6	7	9	3	3	2	2
Channings Wood	6	6	4	4	2	7	3	3	1	2	5	5	—	6
Dartmoor	8	6	1	1	9	8	3	3	4	5	3	1	3	1
Dorchester	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	1	1
Erlestoke	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exeter	—	—	1	—	4	7	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	4
Gloucester	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3
Guys Marsh	—	—	5	4	9	6	9	7	19	15	26	17	18	17
Leyhill	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	8	10	5	—	—
Portland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shepton Mallet	2	3	—	—	1	1	3	1	—	—	1	1	1	2
The Verne	3	3	1	2	5	4	3	2	3	2	—	—	2	2
Total	21	23	18	20	47	47	30	26	43	42	56	42	32	38
East of England														
Bedford	4	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Blundeston	—	1	1	1	1	2	2	5	1	3	3	3	1	1
Bullwood Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chelmsford	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	1		3	—	—	—	—
Edmunds Hill	3	3	1	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	5	5	4	1
Highpoint	6	3	3	3	5	5	1	1	3	6	2	4	1	3
Hollesley Bay	9	6	3	1	6	5	1	—	2	3	15	8	5	4
Littlehey	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
The Mount	1	7	9	7	18	22	15	12	10	14	12	13	8	7
Norwich	1	1	1	4	7	8	2	—	3	3	1	1	—	—
Peterborough	13	11	1	1	4	9	6	5	6	9	10	12	13	10
Warren Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wayland	3	4	2	1	2	5	3	4	—	5	7	5	—	—
Total	42	39	21	21	48	61	35	29	28	51	55	51	33	28
East Midlands														
Ashwell	5	3	2	2	—	—	4	4	—	2	1	2	—	1
Foston Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Mobile phone and SIM cards submitted to central unit (March 2009-February 2010)

	March		April		May		June		July		August		September	
	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S
Gartree	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	1	1	10	7
Glen Parva	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Leicester	1	1	3	2	5	4	7	6	7	10	6	5	2	3
Lincoln	1	2	4	7	2	5	1	2	4	3	1	—	3	2
Lowdham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morton Hall	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Sea Camp	3	6	3	—	—	—	3	4	4	7	3	1	1	—
Nottingham	—	1	1	2	3	5	—	1	2	3	—	—	3	3
Onley	2	4	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Ranby	4	4	1	—	—	—	4	5	3	2	—	—	5	4
Rye Hill	11	9	6	8	8	7	16	24	8	20	21	16	8	5
Stocken	—	—	5	5	1	—	1	1	—	—	2	2	1	1
Sudbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Wellingborough	5	6	10	11	—	1	14	13	2	1	11	8	—	1
Whatton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	38	43	35	37	20	22	52	61	31	57	47	36	36	30
West Midlands														
Birmingham	4	6	2	—	5	7	4	1	6	6	12	8	5	9
Brinsford	1	4	1	1	3	3	2	2	8	7	6	4	1	1
Dovegate	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—
Drake Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Featherstone	3	5	2	2	4	1	11	18	8	12	—	1	5	3
Hewell	1	2	10	10	2	7	8	10	9	14	12	12	13	6
Shrewsbury	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	2	—	—
Stafford	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	2	—
Stoke Heath	1	—	3	4	8	7	4	6	2	3	5	6	4	1
Swinfen Hall	4	2	2	1	1	1	6	5	5	4	2	4	1	1
Werrington	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	3	—	—	—	—
Total	15	21	22	21	23	26	38	44	40	51	42	40	31	21
Yorkshire and Humberside														
Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Doncaster	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	2
Everthorpe	—	—	12	11	—	—	16	15	9	5	10	11	—	—
Hull	7	6	3	2	7	10	2	1	4	3	1	2	—	—
Leeds	10	11	3	7	4	1	7	7	2	1	2	—	5	11
Lindholme	—	—	3	2	5	5	14	8	17	20	11	8	11	9
Moorland open	4	2	2	5	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	3
Moorland closed	4	3	1	3	2	2	3	3	—	—	2	2	6	7
New Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northallerton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wealstun	6	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	—	—	4	5
Wetherby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Wolds	—	—	2	1	9	10	5	6	—	—	6	4	15	13
Total	32	30	27	32	29	29	49	41	34	35	36	31	44	50
North West														
Altcourse	11	9	21	21	18	21	12	11	16	19	11	13	10	13
Buckley Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—
Forest Bank	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	15	6	9
Garth	5	6	8	12	4	3	3	2	4	4	17	19	1	3
Haverigg	6	4	5	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Hindley	—	—	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Kennet	7	6	—	—	11	10	3	2	9	5	9	2	2	1
Kirkham	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	7	6	63	13	15	12
Lancaster Castle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	8
Lancaster Farms	2	2	1	—	—	—	24	22	2	1	—	—	—	—
Liverpool	6	10	43	42	25	29	29	30	7	8	3	1	9	10

Mobile phone and SIM cards submitted to central unit (March 2009-February 2010)

	March		April		May		June		July		August		September	
	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S
Preston	10	16	6	8	—	—	5	8	1	5	3	3	—	—
Risley	5	8	6	7	2	2	10	15	7	9	2	4	4	2
Styal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Thorn Cross	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	2
Wymott	—	1	18	16	11	8	8	6	10	8	5	9	10	9
Total	54	63	110	111	74	77	97	99	66	67	131	85	63	63
North East														
Acklington	2	2	4	3	1	1	—	—	1	—	9	7	5	6
Castington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deerbolt	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	3	5
Holme House	3	2	—	3	4	4	—	1	1	1	2	1	3	5
Kirklevington Grange	9	3	7	5	—	1	—	1	9	2	1	2	5	2
Low Newton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	15	9	11	11	6	9	0	2	11	3	15	15	16	18
Grand total	262	284	363	357	353	377	407	396	376	425	476	393	355	345

	October		November		December		January		February		Total	
	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S
High Security												
Belmarsh	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	3
Full Sutton	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	4	1	10
Frankland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Long Lartin	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	7	12
Manchester	1	6	—	—	1	—	9	12	4	5	50	55
Wakefield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Woodhill	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	2
Whitemoor	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	2	1	8	11
Total	3	9	2	2	3	7	11	14	6	10	69	93
London												
Brixton	14	12	4	4	2	6	9	9	10	11	77	76
Feltham	8	9	3	2	3	3	4	2	2	2	81	82
Holloway	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	6	10
Latchmere House	2	—	2	3	3	—	1	1	3	—	21	6
Pentonville	21	18	16	14	17	19	9	5	23	18	156	138
Wandsworth	5	4	—	—	—	—	3	1	50	60	96	107
Wormwood Scrubs	10	7	14	18	9	9	18	15	8	11	127	126
Total	60	51	39	41	38	39	44	33	96	103	564	545
Wales												
Cardiff	5	3	1	1	4	6	2	3	1	—	27	27
Swansea	4	4	4	5	11	11	3	3	—	—	42	42
Usk/Prescoed	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	5	4
Parc	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	5	1	1	13	17
Total	9	8	6	6	17	19	7	11	2	1	87	90
South East												
Albany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Aylesbury	—	—	7	6	6	6	13	14	15	14	67	70
Blantyre House	—	—	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	14	2
Bronzefield	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	15	19
Bullingdon	6	3	—	—	3	2	2	3	1	2	28	24
Camp Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	6	6
Canterbury	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	1	14	9
Coldingley	4	3	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	13	13
Cookham Wood	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	5

	October		November		December		January		February		Total	
	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S
Dover	6	4	5	1	9	5	4	2	6	18	41	36
Downview	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	3
East Sutton Park	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Elmley	2	2	1	1	4	5	1	2	—	1	31	38
Ford	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	8
Grendon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	10
Haslar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Highdown	2	1	—	—	1	1	4	4	1	1	44	34
Huntercombe	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	10
Kingston	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0
Lewes	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	6
Maidstone	5	9	—	—	1	2	5	6	2	2	27	37
Parkhurst	4	6	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	2	27	31
Reading	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	—	—	—	12	13
Rochester		1	2	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	10	18
Send	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	4	8	10
Springhill	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	25	19
Standford Hill	7	6	18	11	4	2	5	5	2	2	89	62
Swaleside	6	6	6	11	7	5	8	5	5	5	73	78
Winchester	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	1	10	11
Total	47	47	48	38	45	39	54	55	47	64	599	577
South West												
Ashfield	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	13
Bristol	4	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	36	34
Channings Wood	2	2	—	—	2	3	2	1	6	14	33	53
Dartmoor	3	2	3	1	6	5	3	3	1	1	47	37
Dorchester	1	—	1	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	7	6
Eastwood Park	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	7	11
Erlestoke	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	1	6	2
Exeter	2	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	19
Gloucester	2	1	1	—	1	1	1		1	1	11	10
Guys Marsh	3	4	9	3	11	13	8	6	14	12	131	104
Leyhill	7	8	18	15	12	11	5	4	3	4	62	57
Portland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Shepton Mallet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8
The Verne	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	27	22
Total	28	27	36	23	37	36	21	18	32	34	401	376
East of England												
Bedford	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
Blundeston	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	17	21
Bullwood Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	0	2
Chelmsford	1	—	1	—	2	1	3	3	1	2	12	11
Edmunds Hill	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	21	18
Highpoint	—	—	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	30	36
Hollesley Bay	10	11	11	4	12	8	13	11	7	2	94	63
Littlehey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6
The Mount	12	11	3	5	5	3	8	8	8	5	109	114
Norwich	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	17
Peterborough	7	10	3	1	9	11	8	11	4	3	84	93
Warren Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Wayland	6	6	1	3	—	—	5	6	—	1	29	40
Total	43	43	22	17	31	25	40	45	26	19	424	429
East Midlands												
Ashwell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	12	15
Foston Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Gartree	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	4	18	23
Glen Parva	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	6	8
Leicester	2	1	5	3	2	2	2	2	2	4	44	43

	October		November		December		January		February		Total	
	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S
Lincoln	5	4	3	2	3	5	–	–	1	1	28	33
Lowdham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Morton Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
North Sea Camp	5	8	3	3	3	3	2	2	6	7	36	41
Nottingham	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	6	—	1	10	23
Onley	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	6
Ranby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	18	15
Rye Hill	7	8	6	10	4	3	5	5	7	17	107	132
Stocken	—	2	—	—	6	8	1	2	4	3	21	24
Sudbury	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Wellingborough	10	15	10	6	10	11	10	13	2	1	84	87
Whatton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Total	33	38	27	24	29	33	23	33	27	39	398	453
West Midlands												
Birmingham	11	9	10	11	6	9	16	15	10	7	91	88
Brinsford	3	5	4	1	4	2	3	3	—	—	36	33
Dovegate	13	14	2	5	6	8	3	4	3	4	30	42
Drake Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Featherstone	—	2	1	5	2	3	1	—	—	—	37	52
Hewell	12	8	10	7	1	1	6	6	4	5	88	88
Shrewsbury	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	8	6
Stafford	1	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	7	5
Stoke Heath	1	3	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	31	33
Swinfen Hall	1	3	1	—	—	3	1	3	—	1	24	28
Werrington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4
Total	43	46	31	32	21	29	32	31	17	17	355	379
Yorkshire and Humberside												
Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Doncaster	—	6	1	1	2	1	1	1	—	—	8	13
Everthorpe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47	42
Hull	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	28
Leeds	1	2	4	5	2	4	1	2	2	1	43	52
Lindholme	9	8	5	9	7	4	15	9	7	7	104	89
Moorland open	3	1	5	2	4	5	2	—	3	4	27	24
Moorland closed	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	21	22
New Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Northallerton	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Wealstun	1	1	3	3	1	2	—	—	1	1	21	27
Wetherby	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2	6	5
Wolds	8	9	7	7	5	2	11	11	4	1	72	64
Total	24	28	26	32	22	19	32	24	19	16	374	367
North West												
Altcourse	17	16	63	61	30	25	69	73	76	75	354	357
Buckley Hall	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	1	1	6	6
Forest Bank	—	—	3	—	3	2	5	5	17	16	47	47
Garth	5	3	4	4	2	2	5	8	4	5	62	71
Haverigg	1	1	4	2	6	5	3	1	11	40	38	56
Hindley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Kennet	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	3	—	—	46	30
Kirkham	17	2	51	17	21	11	30	13	55	14	260	89
Lancaster Castle	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6
Lancaster Farms	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	1	3	34	35
Liverpool	20	17	10	8	—	—	14	20	2	2	168	177
Preston	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	—	28	44
Risley	11	11	6	9	3	2	2	4	2	4	60	77
Styal	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	5
Thorn Cross	1	2	4	4	7	9	8	5	6	5	33	33
Wymott	7	10	3	1	4	3	2	2	3	3	81	76

	October		November		December		January		February		Total	
	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S
Total	82	66	148	109	83	64	145	141	179	168	1,232	1,113
North East												
Acklington	1	1	8	5	8	5	12	10	2	3	53	43
Castington	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	3	3
Deerbolt	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	4
Durham	1	1	—	—	4	2	—	—	2	2	14	17
Holme House	1	1	4	3	4	5	5	4	1	1	28	31
Kirklevington Grange	9	6	2	5	7	2	3	2	3	2	55	33
Low Newton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Total	14	10	14	13	24	15	21	18	8	8	155	131
Grand total	386	373	399	337	350	325	430	423	459	479	4,616	4,514

Prisons: Mother and Baby Units

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date his Department ceased to collect data on the number of women who had given birth while serving a sentence of imprisonment. [318049]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) withdrew the mother and baby unit (MBU) database from service in April 2009, as over time the data collected and the database itself had become distorted.

The database's primary purpose was to collect information required to centrally manage and monitor demand for places in MBUs. Revised data requirements and a new reporting system have been introduced to fulfil this function.

The database was also used to centrally record a range of information in order to answer queries about wider maternity-related issues. This data continues to be recorded locally for operational purposes. Given the level of public and parliamentary interest in this field, further work is being undertaken to examine the feasibility of developing a new central collection system. This work will not be completed until later this year, but a significant amount of the data should be available from early summer. Every effort will be made to consolidate historical data as far as possible.

Property: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average sale price of a property previously purchased for more than £1 million was in each of the last three years. [325230]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is able to provide information based on residential properties sold at full value[1] of more than £1 million for each of the last three years in England and Wales.

[1] Full value = residential property transactions where the full price has been paid. The figures exclude a number of transactions including right to buy sales at a discount, properties sold by way of a gift and properties sold under a compulsory purchase or court order.

	Average price of properties over £1 million
2007	1,703,929
2008	1,764 024
2009	1,685,369

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many homes have been purchased for more than *(a)* £500,000 and *(b)* £1 million in each year since 1997. [325231]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is able to provide information based on the total number of residential properties sold at full value[1] in England and Wales from 1997 to 2009, as follows:

[1] Full value = residential property transactions where the full price has been paid. The figures exclude a number of transactions including right to buy sales at a discount, properties sold by way of a gift and properties sold under a compulsory purchase or court order.

	Over £500,000	Over £1 million
1997	3,392	518
1998	4,119	682
1999	6,863	1,117
2000	9,815	1,797
2001	12,588	2,204
2002	18,359	2,935
2003	19,669	2,823
2004	27,079	3,963
2005	26,981	3,818
2006	42,451	6,333
2007	52,273	8,531
2008	27,356	5,008
2009	25,450	4,535

The numbers in the over £1 million column are also part of the total in the over £500,000 column.

Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* the Independent Commission on the Voting System, *(b)* the Royal Commission on the Reform of the House of Lords, *(c)* the production of the White Paper on The House of Lords-Completing the Reform and *(d)* the production of the White Paper on An Elected Second Chamber. [324494]

Mr. Wills: The Stationery Office has provided the following costings:

The publication costs of *(a)* the Report of Independent Commission on the Voting System was £3,001.00 for Cm 4090-I and £972.00 for Cm 4090-II;

(b) the Report of the Royal Commission on the Reform of the House of Lords was £31,090.9;

(c) the White Paper 'The House of Lords-Completing the Reform' (Cm 7027) was £12,353.00; and

(d) of the White Paper 'An Elected Second Chamber' (Cm 7438) was £20,389.57.

Information on the other costs is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of offences related to failure to purchase a television licence in each year since 1997. [324382]

Claire Ward: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for TV licence evasion in England and Wales 1997 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Court data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2010.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for television licence evasion[1, 2], England and Wales, 1997 to 2008[3, 4]

	1997	1998	1999	2000[5]	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[6]
Proceeded against	92,728	96,616	68,778	120,626	96,471	110,160	93,897	106,435	122,923	130,019	135,508	134,518
Found guilty	76,984	76,605	55,813	105,318	83,739	96,589	79,856	89,240	104,930	115,470	120,874	120,785

[1] For 1997 to 2007 as well as television licence evasion, these data include proceedings for summary offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 to 1967.
[2] For 2007 and 2008 these figures relate to the offence Television Licence evasion - Communications Act 2003.
[3] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[5] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[6] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates' court for April, July, and August 2008.
Note:
Wireless Telegraphy Act offences (mainly television licence evasion) prosecutions increased by 75 per cent from 1999 to 2000. These figures fluctuate from year to year depending on the level and manner of enforcement by the licensing authorities. The increase in prosecutions in 2000 was largely due to changes in visiting practices so that enforcement visits to households took place at times when TV was more likely to be watched.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Wills

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase the number of people who make wills. [324939]

Bridget Prentice: There are no specific initiatives currently under way to increase the number of people who make wills. Nonetheless, we encourage people to do so by keeping the process relatively straightforward and inexpensive and by providing information about how it can be done on government websites, such as those of Her Majesty's Courts Service, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, and Directgov.

Young Offender Institutions

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding his Department has allocated to the development of the new Young Offender Institution at Glen Parva; when he expects it to be fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [325133]

Maria Eagle: The funding currently allocated for the proposed 360 place young offender institution (YOI) at Glen Parva is approximately £80 million.

The YOI is currently planned for delivery in mid-2012. The operation of the establishment will be subject to a competition to start later this year, and decisions on the appropriate level of build up of young people will be made in conjunction with the selected operator.

Youth Custody

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the maximum population capacity of each *(a)* secure children's home, *(b)* secure training centre and *(c)* young offender institution was in each year since 2002. [323894]

Maria Eagle: The following tables provide the information, as at 1 April in each year since 2002: the maximum number of secure children home places provided under contract to the Youth Justice Board; the maximum capacity of each secure training centre; and the maximum number of places for young people under 18 at each young offender institution which accommodates young people under that age.

Places at secure children's homes contractually provided to the Youth Justice Board, as at 1 April: 2002-09

	Aldine House	Atkinson Unit	Aycliffe Young Peoples Centre	Barton Moss Secure Unit	Briars Hey (Orchard House)	Brunel Unit	Clare Lodge	Clayfields House	Dales House
2002	6	11	30	17	4	0	8	9	6
2003	4	11	35	18	7	6	8	9	8
2004	5	10	30	20	0	0	0	12	0

Places at secure children's homes contractually provided to the Youth Justice Board, as at 1 April: 2002-09

	Aldine House	Atkinson Unit	Aycliffe Young Peoples Centre	Barton Moss Secure Unit	Briars Hey (Orchard House)	Brunel Unit	Clare Lodge	Clayfields House	Dales House
2005	5	10	30	20	0	0	0	12	0
2006	5	10	30	20	0	0	0	12	0
2007	5	10	30	20	0	0	0	12	0
2008	5	10	30	20	0	0	0	12	0
2009	5	10	30	20	0	0	0	12	0

	Dyson Hall (Gladstone Unit)	East Moor Secure Unit	Hillside	Lincolnshire Unit	Kyloe House	Leverton Secure Unit	Orchard Lodge	Red Bank Community Centre	Redsands (Oak House)
2002	9	34	14	4	3	2	16	28	4
2003	16	34	14	7	3	0	18	28	0
2004	16	34	14	7	3	0	18	28	0
2005	16	34	14	7	3	0	18	28	0
2006	16	34	14	7	3	0	18	28	0
2007	16	34	14	7	3	0	18	28	0
2008	0	34	14	8	3	0	16	28	0
2009	0	34	15	8	3	0	16	28	0

	St. John's Tiffield	Stamford House	Stoke House[2]	Sutton Place Safe Centre	Swanwick Lodge	Thornbury House	Vinney Green	Total
2002	8	0	4	7	5	7	18	254
2003	8	20	0	8	8	7	20	297
2004	0	0	0	8	10	0	20	235
2005	0	0	0	8	10	0	20	235
2006	0	0	0	8	10	0	20	235
2007	0	0	0	8	10	0	20	235
2008	0	0	0	8	10	0	20	218
2009	0	0	0	8	10	0	20	219

Note:
Capacity shown includes YJB-contracted beds only; some secure children's homes have additional beds for looked-after young people.

Capacity of secure training centres, as at 1 April: 2002-09

	Medway	Hassockfield	Rainsbrook	Oakhill[1]	Total
2002	44	42	44	0	130
2003	76	42	76	0	194
2004	76	42	76	0	194
2005	76	42	76	80	274
2006	76	42	76	80	274
2007	76	58	87	80	301
2008	76	58	87	80	301
2009	76	58	87	80	301

[1] For a number of periods up to 2008, occupancy levels at Oakhill were capped below the maximum capacity level.

Number of places for young people under 18 in young offender institutions, as at 1 April: 2002-09

	Ashfield	Brinsford	Brockhill	Bullwood Hall	Castington	Cookham Wood	Downview	Eastwood Park	Feltham	Foston Hall	Hindley
2002	303	224	14	30	280	0	0	10	240	0	192
2003	302	224	14	30	280	0	0	10	240	0	192
2004	202	224	0	30	168	0	0	10	240	0	192
2005	360	224	0	30	168	0	16	10	240	0	192
2006	360	224	0	0	168	17	16	16	240	0	192
2007	400	168	0	0	168	17	16	16	240	16	192
2008	400	112	0	0	168	157	16	16	240	16	192
2009	400	112	0	0	168	157	16	16	240	16	440

	Huntercombe	Lancaster Farms	New Hall	Onley	Parc	Stoke Heath	Thorn Cross	Warren Hill	Werrington	Wetherby	Woodhill	Total
2002	360	130	48	240	28	202	60	213	132	360	0	3,066
2003	360	130	48	240	28	202	60	213	132	360	0	2,965
2004	360	130	48	0	28	202	60	216	132	360	0	2,692
2005	360	130	48	0	36	202	60	216	132	360	0	2,784

	Huntercombe	Lancaster Farms	New Hall	Onley	Parc	Stoke Heath	Thorn Cross	Warren Hill	Werrington	Wetherby	Woodhill	Total
2006	360	250	26	0	36	202	60	222	160	360	8	2,917
2007	360	250	26	0	64	202	70	222	160	360	8	2,955
2008	360	240	26	0	64	202	0	222	160	360	0	2,951
2009	360	0	26	0	64	202	0	222	160	408	0	3,007

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the size of the juvenile custodial population is; what assessment he has made of recent and likely future trends in that population; and what assessment has been made of required levels of future capacity in the juvenile custodial estate. [324886]

Maria Eagle: At the end of January 2009 (the latest date for which verified figures are available) there were 2,096 young people under-18 in custody.

Over the last 18 months, there has been a very significant decrease in the size of the under-18 custodial population. At the end of June 2008, there were 3,029 young people in custody. Since then, the population has fallen by 31 per cent. In the light of this developing trend, the Youth Justice Board has acted to remove spare capacity in the under-18 estate, beginning with the decommissioning of under-18 places at Brinsford YOI. In addition, we have recently announced the decommissioning of places at Castington YOI. We will continue to keep the under-18 population under review and to ensure that the capacity of the estate is adjusted to take account of the number of young people it needs to accommodate.

Youth Justice Board: Crime Prevention

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by the Youth Justice Board on crime prevention programmes in 2008-09. [324872]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) on 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 943W.

Youth Justice Board: Custodial Places

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of the Youth Justice Board's budget was spent on purchasing custodial places in 2008-09. [324871]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) on 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 665W.

Youth Offending Teams: Youth Justice Board

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the change in real terms in spending on *(a)* the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and *(b)* local youth offending teams was between 2000 and 2007. [324870]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) on 26 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 802W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were purchased through *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy, *(d)* the First Time Buyer's initiative, *(e)* Social HomeBuy and *(f)* Rent to HomeBuy schemes in each year from the inception of each scheme to 2006. [324026]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1282W and the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1400W.

HomeBuy Direct and Rent to HomeBuy were not operational in 2006.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made for the purposes of the allocation of regional funding by the Homes and Communities Agency of the likely number of New Build HomeBuy completions in each region in 2010-11; [324152]

(2) what estimate he has made for the purposes of the allocation of regional funding by the Homes and Communities Agency of the likely number of Rent to HomeBuy completions in each region in 2010-11. [324153]

John Healey: These HomeBuy schemes form part of the funding made available for affordable housing through the Regional Housing Pot. Regional allocations for 2010-11 were set out in a letter from Communities and Local Government to Regional Assemblies on 12 December 2007. The distribution between Regions was arrived at by means of the Housing Needs Formula which reflected key policy objectives. It was not split by individual affordable housing products.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in each constituency have participated in the Homebuy Direct scheme to date. [324487]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency's information system does not collect such data on a constituency basis.

Affordable Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding his Department allocated under the New Build

HomeBuy scheme in each region in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how much such funding has been allocated for (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; [324145]

(2) how much funding his Department allocated under the Rent to HomeBuy scheme in each region in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how much such funding has been allocated for (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; [324147]

(3) how much funding his Department allocated to each region for low cost home ownership programmes in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 to date; [324148]

(4) how much funding his Department allocated under the HomeBuy Direct scheme in each region in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how much such funding has been allocated for (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [324157]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1127W, which provided allocations by region for HomeBuy Direct, New Build HomeBuy, Open Market HomeBuy, First Time Buyer's Initiative, Social HomeBuy and Rent to HomeBuy.

In addition the following table shows the allocations provided by region in 2008-09 for New Build HomeBuy, Rent to HomeBuy, and low cost home ownership. There were no HomeBuy Direct allocations in 2008-09.

£ million

Region	New Build HomeBuy	Rent to HomeBuy	Low cost home ownership
East Midlands	18.64	14.70	47.27
East of England	24.41	22.52	106.52
London	178.16	93.15	452.58
North East	4.78	0.99	9.35
North West	44.71	15.38	68.03
South East	52.44	9.23	156.98
South West	19.03	7.67	63.94
West Midlands	28.29	6.58	57.47
Yorkshire and the Humber	17.65	6.56	35.00
Total	388.11	176.79	997.13

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department allocated to each sub-region for low cost home ownership programmes in spending period *(a)* 2008-11, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 to date; and how many such homes are expected to be completed in each sub-region. [324158]

John Healey: The table shows allocations made through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing programme for low cost home ownership programmes by sub-region. The allocations shown are in respect of those made each year for 2008-09 and 2009-10 to end of February 2010 respectively. Allocations in 2010-11 will not be made until the next financial year.

£ million

Region	Sub-region	2008-09	2009-10	Total
East Midlands	Northern	2.33	7.23	9.55
East Midlands	Peak	1.42	0.89	2.31
East Midlands	Rural East	9.19	11.16	20.36
East Midlands	Southern Growth	12.84	14.97	27.81
East Midlands	Three Cities	21.49	19.98	41.47
East Midlands Total		47.27	54.23	101.50
East of England	Bedfordshire	27.70	27.04	54.73
East of England	Cambridge	19.21	11.37	30.58
East of England	Greater Norwich	7.90	5.25	13.15
East of England	Haven Gateway	6.85	14.75	21.61
East of England	London Commuter Belt	22.60	31.85	54.46
East of England	Peterborough	7.67	9.11	16.79
East of England	Rural East Anglia	4.25	1.58	5.84
East of England	Thames Gateway	10.20	10.69	20.89
East of England	Yarmouth and Lowestoft	0.12	1.79	1.91
East of England Total		106.52	113.44	219.95
London	East	133.46	168.06	301.52
London	North	102.93	74.65	177.58
London	South East	69.87	92.58	162.46
London	South West	56.85	61.47	118.32
London	West	89.47	57.81	147.28
London Total		452.58	454.57	907.15
North East	County Durham	2.16	7.31	9.48
North East	Northumberland	0.71	3.50	4.22
North East	Tees Valley	4.59	12.50	17.09
North East	Tyne and Wear	1.88	10.01	11.89
North East Total		9.35	33.33	42.68
North West	Cheshire	4.11	3.41	7.52
North West	Cumbria	0.92	2.63	3.55
North West	East Lanes	5.91	2.76	8.66
North West	Greater Manchester	27.30	36.09	63.39
North West	Merseyside	18.65	15.67	34.32
North West	West Lanes	11.14	10.80	21.94
North West Total		68.03	71.35	139.38
South East	Ashford	4.67	11.92	16.59
South East	Blackwater Valley	4.99	16.12	21.11
South East	Canterbury and East Kent	3.75	3.26	7.01
South East	Crawley/ Gatwick	3.97	4.70	8.67
South East	Eastbourne	0.30	0.46	0.76
South East	Guildford/ Woking	14.76	5.31	20.07
South East	Hastings and Rother	0.16	1.30	1.46
South East	High Weald	0.95	1.73	2.68
South East	Inner North	2.03	5.52	7.55
South East	Inner South	6.78	2.79	9.56
South East	Inner West	5.39	6.02	11.41
South East	Isle of Wight	5.60	1.65	7.25
South East	Maidstone Milton Keynes/ South	4.69	3.14	7.83

Region	Sub-region	2008-09	2009-10	£ million Total
South East	Midlands	9.43	14.32	23.75
South East	North Hampshire-M3	4.12	10.21	14.33
South East	North Kent	9.94	13.76	23.70
South East	Oxford City Region	9.15	5.76	14.92
South East	Reading-M4 West	24.73	17.60	42.33
South East	South Hampshire	22.71	19.22	41.93
South East	Sussex Coast	15.96	13.05	29.01
South East	West Kent	2.90	4.70	7.60
South East Total		156.98	162.55	319.53
South West	Bournemouth and Poole	5.53	6.79	12.32
South West	Cornwall	0.00	5.65	5.65
South West	Exeter	17.76	14.31	32.07
South West	Gloucester and Cheltenham	1.47	19.27	20.74
South West	Plymouth	2.43	6.84	9.27
South West	Polycentric Devon and Cornwall	2.06	3.04	5.10
South West	Salisbury	0.83	0.00	0.83
South West	South Somerset	2.03	2.23	4.26
South West	Swindon	4.47	22.67	27.14
South West	Taunton	0.25	6.24	6.49
South West	Torbay	0.34	0.47	0.80
South West	West Cornwall	4.26	0.00	4.26
South West	West of England	21.46	29.30	50.76
South West	Weymouth -Dorchester	1.05	1.18	2.23
South West Total		63.94	117.99	181.93
West Midlands	Central	44.50	56.48	100.98
West Midlands	North	4.39	6.75	11.14
West Midlands	South	5.77	8.14	13.91
West Midlands	West	2.81	3.63	6.44
West Midlands Total		57.47	75.01	132.48
Yorkshire and the Humber	Humberside	3.00	13.00	16.01
Yorkshire and the Humber	North Yorkshire	5.12	7.20	12.31
Yorkshire and the Humber	South Yorkshire	8.02	17.96	25.98
Yorkshire and the Humber	West Yorkshire	18.86	30.72	49.57
Yorkshire and the Humber Total		35.00	68.87	103.87
Grand Total		997.13	1,151.34	2,148.47

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

The following table shows the number of low cost home ownership completions (forecast or actual) arising from those allocations provided by the year of the allocation and not by year of completion.

Region	Sub-region	2008	2009	£ million Total
East Midlands	Northern	145	306	451
East Midlands	Peak	53	32	85
East Midlands	Rural East	410	494	904
East Midlands	Southern Growth	500	435	935
East Midlands	Three Cities	893	762	1,655
East Midlands Total		2,001	2,029	4,030
East of England	Bedfordshire	996	811	1,807
East of England	Cambridge	696	527	1,223
East of England	Greater Norwich	308	196	504
East of England	Haven Gateway	353	614	967
East of England	London Commuter Belt	773	983	1,756
East of England	Peterborough	227	331	558
East of England	Rural East Anglia	158	66	224
East of England	Thames Gateway	354	333	687
East of England	Yarmouth and Lowestoft	27	63	90
East of England Total		3,892	3,924	7,816
London	East	2,749	2,984	5,733
London	North	1,674	1,705	3,379
London	South East	1,846	1,715	3,561
London	South West	1,271	1,227	2,498
London	West	1,743	1,249	2,992
London Total		9,283	8,880	18,163
North East	County Durham	86	328	414
North East	Northumberland	53	158	211
North East	Tees Valley	185	583	768
North East	Tyne and Wear	85	420	505
North East Total		409	1,489	1,898
North West	Cheshire	262	125	387
North West	Cumbria	36	107	143
North West	East Lanes	207	96	303
North West	Greater Manchester	892	1,324	2,216
North West	Merseyside	644	602	1,246
North West	West Lanes	270	411	681
North West Total		2,311	2,665	4,976
South East	Ashford	181	288	469
South East	Blackwater Valley	163	450	613
South East	Canterbury and East Kent	154	148	302
South East	Crawley/ Gatwick	148	171	319
South East	Eastbourne	6	21	27
South East	Guildford/ Woking	493	150	643
South East	Hastings and Rother	16	46	62
South East	High Weald	47	52	99
South East	Inner North	82	251	333
South East	Inner South	216	87	303
South East	Inner West	207	191	398

Region	Sub-region	2008	2009	£ million Total
South East	Isle of Wight	137	59	196
South East	Maidstone Milton Keynes/South	190	102	292
South East	Midlands	335	515	850
South East	North Hampshire-M3	200	372	572
South East	North Kent	505	559	1,064
South East	Oxford City Region	345	184	529
South East	Reading-M4 West	750	476	1,226
South East	South Hampshire	784	501	1,285
South East	Sussex Coast	456	331	787
South East	West Kent	91	153	244
South East Total		5,506	5,107	10,613
South West	Bournemouth and Poole	104	181	285
South West	Cornwall		171	171
South West	Exeter	615	413	1,028
South West	Gloucester and Cheltenham	56	579	635
South West	Plymouth	92	232	324
South West	Polycentric Devon and Cornwall	114	130	244
South West	Salisbury	26		26
South West	South Somerset	64	76	140
South West	Swindon	264	627	891
South West	Taunton	26	226	252
South West	Torbay	30	9	39
South West	West Cornwall	238		238
South West	West of England	631	953	1,584
South West	Weymouth - Dorchester	54	33	87
South West Total		2,314	3,630	5,944
West Midlands	Central	1,866	2,020	3,886
West Midlands	North	244	261	505
West Midlands	South	298	232	530
West Midlands	West	97	122	219
West Midlands Total		2,505	2,635	5,140
Yorkshire and the Humber	Humberside	127	548	675
Yorkshire and the Humber	North Yorkshire	218	236	454
Yorkshire and the Humber	South Yorkshire	301	673	974
Yorkshire and the Humber	West Yorkshire	766	1,250	2,016
Yorkshire and The Humber Total		1,412	2,707	4,119
Grand Total		29,633	33,066	62,699

Affordable Housing: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the target is for the provision of affordable housing in each London local authority. [325297]

Mr. Ian Austin: Boroughs' targets for provision of affordable housing are set in Core Strategies and, where they exist, saved policies from Unitary Development Plans. Where neither is in place the existing London Plan policy that 50 per cent. of all new housing across London should be affordable would apply. Borough targets for provision of affordable housing are set out in the following table:

Borough	Target
Barking and Dagenham	50 per cent.
Barnet	50 per cent.
Bexley	35 per cent.
Brent	50 per cent.
Bromley	35 per cent.
Camden	50 per cent.
City of London	50 per cent.
Croydon	40-50 per cent.
Ealing	50 per cent.
Enfield	London Plan target applies
Greenwich	35 per cent. minimum (50 per cent. on Greenfield or readily developable former employment land)
Hackney	London Plan target applies
Hammersmith and Fulham	London Plan target applies
Haringey	50 per cent.
Harrow	London Plan target applies
Havering	50 per cent.
Hillingdon	London Plan target applies
Hounslow	London Plan target applies
Islington	London Plan target applies
Kensington and Chelsea	London Plan target applies
Kingston upon Thames	30-50 per cent. (50 per cent. on schemes of 25 units or more)
Lambeth	40 per cent. (50 per cent. with grant)
Lewisham	35 per cent.
Merton	London Plan target applies
Newham	London Plan target applies
Redbridge	50 per cent.
Richmond upon Thames	50 per cent.
Southwark	50 per cent. (35 per cent. or 40 per cent. in Central Activities Zone, central London)
Sutton	50 per cent.
Tower Hamlets	50 per cent. (35 per cent. on individual privately owned sites), adopted for development management purposes
Waltham Forest	50 per cent.
Wandsworth	London Plan target applies
Westminster	50 per cent. (10-30 per cent. in Central Activities Zone, central London)

Affordable Housing: Sustainable Development

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 880-1W, on housing: sustainable development, what the cost to his Department was of the stand at Ecobuild; if he will publish on his Department's website a copy of each speech; and whether he has made an assessment of the implications for his Department's policies of the Ecobuild event. [324831]

John Healey: The cost of the Department's stand at the Ecobuild conference was £24,000, excluding VAT.

Where formal presentations were made by officials at the conference, copies are available on the Ecobuild conference website at:

www.ecobuild.co.uk/seminars.html.

The popularity of the Ecobuild event has confirmed for me the commitment of the industry to improving the sustainability of homes and industry's positive response to this Government's polices for promoting sustainable homes.

Allotments

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to Baroness Byford of 18 March 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 213WA, on allotments, how many applications to dispose of statutory allotments were *(a)* submitted, *(b)* approved and *(c)* rejected in each local authority area in each year since 1997-98. [324779]

Barbara Follett: A table providing data, broken down by year and local authority area, on the number of consent to dispose of statutory allotments applications which were submitted, granted and refused from 1 January 2000 until 31 December 2009 has been placed in the Library of the House. We do not hold complete data for years prior to 2000. Where applications were neither granted nor refused, they were either withdrawn, consent was not required or were otherwise invalid.

Council Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have banned domestic cats or dogs from new housing as part of a Special Protection Area strategy. [323100]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 831W.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were on the local housing waiting list in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* each local authority area in the East of England and *(c)* England (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) on the latest date for which information is available. [325333]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information is available on numbers of households rather than people. Information is not available for constituencies. The number of households registered on social housing waiting lists in each local authority, each region, and in England, as at 1 April each year from 1997 to 2009, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The link for this table is given as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

Council Housing: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the budget of each arm's length housing management organisation in each London local authority was recharged to the local authority in each of the last three years. [325296]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department allocates funding to local authorities with arm's length management organisations (ALMOs) in the form of supported capital expenditure via the housing finance subsidy system. Local authorities, including those in London, allocate funding to their ALMOs via a management fee. This is a contractual matter as agreed between the local authorities and their ALMOs.

The Department does not hold a record of the proportion of the budget of each arm's length management organisation that is recharged to its parent local authority.

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each local authority had in unspent capital receipts from the sale of council housing on the most recent date for which figures are available, listed in descending order of amount of receipts. [325300]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested is not held centrally.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on average what the council tax band was of a *(a)* two, *(b)* three and *(c)* four bedroom house in the latest period for which figures are available. [324033]

Barbara Follett: It is not possible to determine an average in the manner requested, however:

the band which has most frequently been applied to a two-bedroom house in England (as at 31 December 2009) is band A.

the band which has most frequently been applied to a three-bedroom house in England (as at 31 December 2009) is band C.

the band which has most frequently been applied to a four-bedroom house in England (as at 31 December 2009) is band E.

Each of the three dwelling types has valuation list entries across all eight council tax bands.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many smoking shelters have been built for his Department's staff in the last five years; and at what cost. [324364]

Barbara Follett: One smoking shelter has been provided at Hempstead House, Hemel Hempstead at a cost of £4,112.50 inclusive of VAT.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324673]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government has spent £403,606 excluding VAT, on interior design in relation to office refurbishments since its inception in May 2006. The projects are part of the department's estates efficiency strategy, resulting in running cost efficiencies of £8 million per annum.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will issue guidance on his Department's policy on the relocation offshore of departmental jobs to companies bidding for contracts let by his Department. [324794]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not have an 'offshoring' policy. It is a procurement option which can be justified if it delivers value for money and is consistent with EC procurement regulations.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324980]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government has yet to install any voltage optimisers in its main buildings. A number of feasibility studies have been undertaken but installation has been delayed until our buildings are at maximum occupancy. Only then will we have a full understanding of the appropriateness and return on investment of this type of technology relative to our specific buildings.

The Department is strongly committed to reducing its energy demand and related carbon emissions, and is installing a range of energy efficient technologies in its buildings including:

Free cooling circulation for kitchen air supply

Lower energy lighting with high frequency ballasts, and LEDs

Boiler optimisers

High efficiency chillers with heat recovery.

In 2009, the Department reported a 33 per cent. reduction in carbon emissions from its central offices and achieved the Carbon Trust Standard, demonstrating a sustained commitment to carbon management, and a proven track record of year-on-year energy reduction.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on antique furniture in each of the last five years; and what items were purchased. [325110]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not purchased any antique furniture during the last five years.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in real terms. [324810]

Barbara Follett: The total expenditure by this Department on the combined costs (including salary, employer's national insurance contributions and pension costs) for all press and media officers employed during the financial year 2009/10 was £964,064.86.

Due to the need to reconcile the changes in personnel and in internal accounting practices in the intervening period, figures for the financial year 1996-97 would only be available at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what capital projects his Department expects to have in 2010-11; and what the budget for each will be in that year. [324502]

Barbara Follett: Capital expenditure is incurred by my Department and its executive agency the Planning Inspectorate either to support its day to day running (mainly of the estates and IT systems), and that of its agency, or on key national fire resilience projects where the Department manages procurement for the fire service generally (Firelink and FiReControl). The budgets allocated to these projects for 2010-11 are set out in table A.

However, the majority of the Department's capital programmes are delivered through arm's length bodies (the Homes and Communities Agency and the regional development agencies) and local authorities. The budgets allocated to these programmes for 2010-11 are set out in table B.

Finally, my Department contributes to the funding of the infrastructure for the 2012 Olympic Games for which there is a budget of £442 million in 2010-11.

Table A—Capital projects in the Department and its Executive agency—the Planning Inspectorate

Financial year 2010-11 plans

Projects	*Capital budgets[1] (£ million)*
Investment in Ordnance Survey	14.800
Control Rooms equipment	9.199
Planning Inspectorate equipment and computers	6.331
Strategic information technology	7.034
Investment in Coalfields Enterprise Fund	5.000
Enhanced Local Government Accrual Reporting System	3.500
Firelink equipment	2.200
CLG building improvements	2.180
Electronic Data Records Management System	2.000
Government Offices building improvements	2.860
Fire and Rescue Services Improvement	1.083
Accounting system enhancements	1.350
New Dimension equipment	1.582
E-Planning information technology	1.000
Total	60.119

Table B—Capital grants

Financial year 2010-11 plans

Programmes	*Capital budgets[1] (£ million)*
Homes and Communities Agency	3,538.396
Arm's Length Management Organisations	594.000
Regional Development Agencies—CLG Support	543.322
Regional Housing Pot Grant	301.752
Housing Market Renewal Fund	286.000
Local Authority Supported Capital Expenditure (Decent Homes)	258.755

Table B—Capital grants

Financial year 2010-11 plans

Programmes	*Capital budgets[1] (£ million)*
Disabled Facilities Grants	168.800
Gap Funding for Large Scale Voluntary Transfers	139.000
Community Infrastructure Fund	135.025
Fire Credit Approvals	70.824
Public Service Agreement Performance Fund	47.000
Fire and Rescue Services Improvement programme	45.694
Improvement, Transformation and Efficiency	42.870
New Deal for Communities	43.340
Thames Gateway—London Urban Development Corporation	33.000
Support for Voluntary and Community Sector Sustainability	27.283
Growth Areas New Growth Points and Eco Towns	25.000
Thames Gateway—Thurrock Urban Development Corporation	20.000
Local Enterprise Growth Initiative	18.649
Other Growth Areas: West Northants Urban Development Corporation	7.065
Coalfields Regeneration Trust	6.650
Renewing Neighbourhoods	6.425
General Greater London Authority Grant	1.600
Valuation tribunals	0.400
Fire Service Statistics	0.271
Local Government Standards Board	0.230
Leasehold Advisory Services	0.132
Housing Defects Grants	0.070
Total	6,361.553

[1] These budgets are current, and may be subject to change through the Supplementary Estimates process based on decisions by Ministers.

Fire Services: Emergency Calls

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 714W, on fire services: emergency calls, what the original timetable was for the launch of the SMS emergency number; what the original budget was; what the expected go-live date is; and what operational costs have been incurred to date. [323146]

Mr. Malik: The emergency SMS trial was launched by British Telecommunications PLC on 14 September 2009 in accordance with the agreed with the mobile service providers and emergency services and is available nationally. BT is currently developing plans for providing capacity and resilience in the system which will allow the arrangements to be regarded as providing a full, rather than a trial, service.

The service is being provided by BT and the mobile service providers at no cost to the emergency services, who should incur no operational costs.

Fire Services: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the income of each fire and rescue authority in England was from *(a)* central Government grant, *(b)* council tax and *(c)* other sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [325073]

Barbara Follett: The proportion of the income from central Government grant, council tax and other sources for each fire and rescue authority in England in 2008-09 is in the following table.

Percentage

	Central Government grant	*Council tax*	*Other sources*
Greater Manchester Fire and CD Authority	64.4	34.0	1.6
Merseyside Fire and CD Authority	62.0	34.4	3.7
South Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	60.8	36.1	3.0
Tyne and Wear Fire and CD Authority	59.4	35.4	5.1
West Midlands Fire and CD Authority	66.6	29.7	3.7
West Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	62.9	36.3	0.7
Avon Combined Fire Authority	56.0	42.5	1.5
Bedfordshire Combined Fire Authority	40.4	57.2	2.4
Berkshire Combined Fire Authority	47.0	51.8	1.2
Buckinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	41.5	53.3	5.2
Cambridgeshire Combined Fire Authority	47.5	51.0	1.5
Cheshire Combined Fire Authority	43.1	55.4	1.5
Cleveland Combined Fire Authority	67.7	30.2	2.1
Derbyshire Combined Fire Authority	46.8	51.5	1.7
Devon and Somerset Combined Fire Authority	47.8	48.6	3.6
Dorset Combined Fire Authority	37.7	50.0	12.3
Durham Combined Fire Authority	47.0	52.8	0.3
East Sussex Combined Fire Authority	37.6	61.2	1.1
Essex Combined Fire Authority	44.2	54.2	1.6
Hampshire Combined Fire Authority	44.2	53.8	2.1
Hereford and Worcester Combined Fire Authority	37.5	59.0	3.5
Humberside Combined Fire Authority	53.9	44.1	1.9
Kent Combined Fire Authority	42.1	52.9	5.0
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	53.8	44.3	1.9
Leicestershire Combined Fire Authority	55.0	43.9	1.1
North Yorkshire Combined Fire Authority	43.7	55.4	0.8
Nottinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	49.0	45.0	6.0
Shropshire Combined Fire Authority	37.1	59.6	3.3

	Central Government grant	Council tax	Percentage Other sources
Staffordshire Combined Fire Authority	43.4	55.0	1.6
Wiltshire Combined Fire Authority	39.9	58.5	1.6

Source:
Communities and Local Government revenue outturn (RO) returns and capital outturn (CO) returns

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates), specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services), specific and special revenue grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), area based grant (ABG) and expenditure financed by capital grants from central Government.

The definition of council tax used here is council taxes financed from council tax benefit grant but excludes council taxes financed from local authority contributions to council tax benefit.

Other sources is defined as sum of interest and investment income—external receipts and dividends, sales fees and charges and in-year capital receipts.

Other sources exclude income reported by local authorities under 'other income' in RO returns as this includes internal recharges, which distorts the comparative figures on income.

Comparison across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

Fire Services: Greater London

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the letter of 9 March 2010 from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, what consideration Ministers in his Department have given to postponing the opening of the new London Regional Fire Control Room until after the London 2012 Olympics. [324620]

Mr. Malik: Under current planning assumptions the Regional Fire Control Centre for London is due to become operational during September 2011. In view of the proximity of this date to the Olympic games, I have written to the chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority to ask if they wish to move this date back until after the Olympics. I have also offered to explore the possibility of moving their current control into the Regional Control Centre so that London can benefit from the facilities and enhanced resilience the new building offers during the Olympics. I await LFEPA's formal response.

Fire Services: Risk Assessment

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1269-70W, on fire services: risk assessment, what the risks identified on the FiReControl risk register are; what level of risk is assigned to each; and what steps are being taken to mitigate each risk. [324009]

Mr. Malik: The FiReControl risk assessment is published as Appendix M of the FiReControl Full Business Case, published in May 2009. These risks are organised under nine main categories, with the level of risk and the mitigation set out—these are kept under review. The business case can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/fire/pdf/fcbusinesscasepart2.pdf

Fires: Hoaxes and False Alarms

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* genuine and *(b)* malicious false fire emergency calls were received in each fire authority in the North West in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [325039]

Mr. Malik: The relevant data that are held centrally are for financial year periods and cover all emergency calls, with no distinction as to whether relating to a reported fire or other type of incident.

In preparing this answer it became evident that the figures provided in the answer to a very similar question on 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1170-76W, were of numbers of false alarm incidents attended, rather than of emergency calls. The data available for the periods requested by both questions are therefore shown in the tables.

Total emergency calls[1] handled, fire and rescue services in the north-west, 2002-03 to 2008-09

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Cheshire	31,102	33,506	29,254	28,757	28,435	24,294	22,300
Cumbria	13,444	14,710	14,594	14,082	13,258	12,199	9,41!
Greater Manchester	101,348	113,111	88,927	89,066	95,724	85,026	75,010
Lancashire	48,508	53,171	44,383	42,189	44,727	38,471	34,849
Merseyside	68,494	72,236	61,459	58,635	61,506	52,524	45,537
North West	262,896	286,734	238,617	232,729	243,650	212,514	187,107

[1] Duplicate calls for incidents counted individually
Source:
Annual Returns from Fire and Rescue Services to Communities and Local Government

Malicious false alarm calls handled, fire and rescue services in the north-west, 2005-06 to 2008-09[1]

	2002-03 to 2004-05[1]	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Cheshire	—	785	636	570	432
Cumbria	—	450	447	407	349
Greater Manchester	—	5,128	5,061	4,493	3,062

Malicious false alarm calls handled, fire and rescue services in the north-west, 2005-06 to 2008-09[1]

	2002-03 to 2004-05[1]	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Lancashire	—	1,758	1,714	1,476	1,498
Merseyside	—	1,568	1,188	1,024	723
North West	—	9,689	9,046	7,970	6,064

[1] Data prior to 2005-06 not held centrally

Source:
Annual Returns from Fire and Rescue Services to Communities and Local Government

Home Information Packs

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of written correspondence sent by the Home Department's Design and Technology Alliance to his Department on inclusion of a home security assessment as part of a home information pack. [319044]

Mr. Ian Austin: We are not aware of any correspondence with the Design and Technology Alliance about the inclusion of a home security assessment in the home information pack.

Homelessness: Reading Berkshire

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he made of the number of people homeless in Reading East constituency in each year since 1997. [324577]

Mr. Ian Austin: Homelessness prevention measures funded by Communities and Local Government have had a major impact. In the last six years the quarterly level of statutory homelessness cases has reduced by 71 per cent.

Information on homelessness is not collected at constituency level.

Summary tables including the number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty by each local authority as at the end of each year between 1997-98 and 2008-09 have been deposited in the Library of the House as stated in the question from the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 843W.

Information has also been collected and reported since 1998 on the number of people who sleep rough—i.e., those who are literally roofless on a single night. Local authority data and count guidance can be found on the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/roughsleeping2009

Homes and Communities Agency: Hotels

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 271-72W, on housing: conferences, how much of the Homes and Communities Agency's expenditure on accommodation was related to *(a)* hotel room bookings and *(b)* use of mini-bar and dining facilities. [325272]

Barbara Follett: The cost of hotel room bookings for the HCA's attendance at the MIPIM conference in March 2010 was: £4,282 plus a transaction fee of £124.

No costs were incurred for use of the mini bar or dining.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 271-72W, on housing: conferences, in which hotel *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency employees and *(b)* his Department's officials were accommodated for the MIPIM International Property Conference 2009. [325274]

Barbara Follett: For HCA attendees, three self-catering apartments were hired at a minimum hire of one week and were used for hosting key meetings and briefings and offering basic office facilities.

Departmental officials stayed in Apartment 22, 6 Rue Moliere.

Homes and Communities Agency: Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 271-72W, on housing: conferences, how much of the Homes and Communities Agency's expenditure on travel was for *(a)* rail fares, *(b)* taxis and *(c)* air travel. [325273]

Barbara Follett: The total return air travel cost was £1,528. Airport car transfer Nice/Cannes was €270.

No rail costs were incurred.

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what local priorities the Homes and Communities Agency has set for the Investment Statement of each region; and what assessment he has made of the progress of each region in meeting each regional priority target in *(a)* each of the last three years and *(b)* the spending period 2008-11. [324151]

John Healey: For the National Affordable Housing Programme 2008-11, the Housing Corporation included as part of their prospectus a summary of regional priorities based on regional assemblies' regional housing strategies. In addition, each Housing Corporation region produced an investment statement setting out the regional investment priorities. The link to the website is as follows:

http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/server/show/nav.394

The Housing Corporation and now the Homes and Communities Agency publish regional investment statements on their website on a quarterly basis. The links to the websites are as follows:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/inyourarea

http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/server/show/nav.394

Investment decisions taken by the Homes and Communities Agency must fit with local, regional and national priorities.

The Housing Corporation for 2007-08 published an outturn statement reporting on delivery in each region in that particular year on their website, in addition to their annual report.

Housing: Asbestos

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* housing associations and *(c)* owners of other publicly-funded housing are required to take in order to (i) remove and (ii) mitigate risks from asbestos in their properties; what requirements there are to provide information to tenants on the (A) presence of and (B) risks from asbestos; and if he will make a statement. [325290]

Mr. Ian Austin: All sectors of social housing are covered by the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) which lists asbestos as potential category 1 hazard. In assessing asbestos as a hazard, landlords need to take account of its location, potential for damage, extent of any present damage and whether it is a chrysotile or amphibole product.

Asbestos removal should be carried out in conjunction with Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance and should normally be done by a contractor licensed by the Health and Safety Executive. Mitigation of risk from asbestos is covered in the HHSRS guidance, section 4, full detail as are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/142631.pdf

There is no requirement for social landlords to inform residents about the presence of asbestos in their stock. The HHSRS guidance advises that where asbestos has been identified as present, the material should be in good condition, sealed, inaccessible, labelled and the location recorded by the landlord.

Information on the risk from asbestos is available to tenants from local authorities, the Health and Safety Executive and the Direct.gov website. There is no requirement for landlords to provide this information although many choose to do so.

Housing: Asylum

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to pages 125 and 126 of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's report on Refugees and asylum seekers: a review from an equality and human rights perspective, whether *(a)* the Housing Corporation and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency had any role in the provision of accommodation to asylum seekers; and what records his Department holds of the housing associations which (i) provide and (ii) facilitate accommodation for asylum seekers. [324732]

John Healey: The Housing Corporation did not have a direct role in the provision of housing for asylum seekers. However, the Corporation did fund research and develop a range of policies that aimed to improve conditions for refugee communities and new migrants.

Asylum seekers do not have access to public funds and are therefore not entitled to the benefits of social housing. Consequently, the Homes and Communities Agency cannot develop housing for them.

However, the HCA can develop homes which refugees (who do have a form of leave which allows them some access to public funds) can access.

Information about refugees housed by housing associations is captured in two sets of statistics via the:

1. Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR) which contains information about the number of units intended for refugees, and asylum seekers under the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) contracts:

www.rsrsurvey.co.uk

2. Continuous Recording of Lettings and Sales (CORE) which captures information about new lettings including, since April 2006, where tenants were housed by the Asylum Support Service immediately before their new letting:

https://core.tenantservicesauthority.org

3. Home Office collect figures on the number of asylum applications each year in their "control of immigration" quarterly stats release:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Housing: Capital Investment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what capital projects the Homes and Communities Agency will have in 2010-11; and what the budget for each is in that year. [324503]

John Healey: Details of the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) planned expenditure by programme for 2010-11 can be found in HCA's Corporate Plan. Details of all of HCA's approved capital projects for 2010-11 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Conferences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency on accreditation for the MIPIM international property conference in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009; and how much has been spent in 2010 to date. [323248]

Barbara Follett: The Department made the following spend on accreditation at the MIPIM conference in the years given:

Accreditation was included as part of a participation package equating to £675 (plus VAT) per delegate in 2007;

Accreditation was included as part of a participation package equating to £700 (plus VAT) per delegate in 2008; and

£1,500 (plus VAT) in 2009.

No departmental Ministers or officials attended in 2010.

The Homes and Communities Agency was established in December 2008 and has, therefore, only attended the conference in 2009 and 2010. Its spend on accreditation was:

£10,862 in 2009; and

£2,981 in 2010.

These costs were inclusive of taxes and foreign currency charges.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff of the Homes and Communities Agency will attend the MIPIM international property conference in March 2010. [323249]

Barbara Follett: Two delegates from the Homes and Communities Agency attended the conference.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 272-73W, on housing: conferences, what the job title was of each Homes and Communities Agency employee who attended the MIPIM International Property Conference 2009. [325275]

Barbara Follett: The Homes and Communities Agency had seven officials in attendance at the MIPIM conference in 2009. Their job titles are as follows:

Chairman

Chief Executive

Director New Ventures and Partnerships

Head of Marketing

Senior Corporate Marketing Executive

Corporate Marketing Executive.

Housing: Construction

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many £60,000 homes have been built following the Design for Manufacture competition to date; in which locations have such homes been built; and what the average sale price has been; [323047]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on the construction costs of new housing of the Design for Manufacture competition. [323048]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Design for Manufacture competition launched in April 2005 is run by the Homes and Communities Agency (formerly English Partnerships) on behalf of Communities and Local Government. The competition was the Government's challenge to the housebuilding industry to build high-quality, well-designed homes for £60,000. The figure of £60,000 relates to a target cost for building a two bedroom home and does not reflect the sale price. Developers are responsible for final sales for individual homes setting prices in accordance with local market conditions. The programme comprising ten sites is currently on track to deliver the target of building 30 per cent. of the homes on each site for £60,000 The Homes and Communities Agency will report back on the exact number of £60,000 homes built on each site following completion of the programme. The sites and target number of £60,000 homes to be built are listed in the following table.

A detailed publication on the lessons learned so far from the Design for Manufacture competition was published by English Partnerships in June 2006. It sets out the 10 initial lessons learnt including one about constructions costs. The overall assessment was that these costs can be controlled whilst at the same time improving the quality of homes being developed.

The Design for Manufacture lessons learnt publication is available at:

http://www.designformanufacture.info/lessonslearnt.htm

The Homes and Communities Agency intend publishing Lessons Learnt II shortly.

Sites	*Total number of homes to be built*	*Target total of £60,000 homes to be built*[1]
Oxley Park, Milton Keynes	145	56
Allerton Bywater Millennium Community, Leeds	151	46
Upton, Northampton	158	50
Renny Lodge, Newport Pagnell	68	21
School Road, Hastings	12	4
Horns Cross, Dartford	37	13
Linton Hospital, Maidstone	150	45
Park Prewett, Basingstoke	137	42
Oxford Road, Aylesbury	102	40
Rowan Road, Merton	217	65

[1] Unable to report back on number of completed £60,000 homes until the programme is over and all sites fully built out and developed.

Housing: Olympic Games 2012

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency for the development of the Olympic Village on the London 2012 Olympic Games site; and how much more funding he expects to be provided. [321197]

Mr. Malik: Communities and Local Government contributes alongside other funding departments within the overall £9.325 billion Olympic Budget. The gross construction cost of the village is £1,095 million. This includes post-games transformation for legacy use. The Homes and Communities Agency is providing a grant of £110 million to Triathlon Homes toward the social housing element which is included in the overall cost. No further funding is expected to be provided.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the homes provided in the Olympic Village after the London 2012 Olympics *(a)* will be (i) flats and (ii) houses and *(b)* will have (A) one, (B) two and (C) three or more bedrooms. [321198]

Mr. Malik: There will be 2,818 apartments and town houses in the Olympic Village, 1,379 of which will be affordable. The following table sets out the current plans for different tenures.

	Market	*Intermediate*	*Social rented*	*Additional intermediate*
4 bed town houses	101	—	160	—
3 bed (including town houses)	453	23	162	98
2 bed	725	190	287	234
1 bed	155	116	66	43
Studio	5	—	—	—

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much is charged by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment for Building for Life assessor accreditation. [321549]

Mr. Ian Austin: Building for Life assessor accreditation is free of charge for one officer from each English local authority. Additional officers are charged £360.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local planning authority staff have been trained by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment to become accredited Building for Life assessors. [321550]

Mr. Ian Austin: 404 local authority officers have started the training since the programme started in January 2009. Of these, 229 have now completed the full accreditation.

Kent

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what schemes in Kent Thameside have received funding from his Department and its executive agencies in each of the last five years; and how much funding was allocated to each of those schemes. [323059]

Mr. Malik: The following table sets out the funding provided by the Thames Gateway programme to projects in Kent Thameside in each of the last five years.

Project	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	£ 2009-10
A2 Activity Park and Northfleet Urban Area	—	—	—	311,095	879,375
Acquisition of Beauwater Sports Ground	0	0	0	0	0
Action Now—Gravesend Heritage Quarter	0	0	139,078	0	0
Brooklands Lakes improvements and feasibility study	0	0	93,829	0	0
Cobham Heritage Park: South Lodge and Barn	0	0	779,000	300,000	0
Cobham Heritage Park: West Park	0	0	359,976	0	0
Communities Learning Facilities	238,628	0	0	0	0
Creating Greener Lifestyles and Green Gym	0	0	21,400	0	0
Darenth Sporting Connections	0	0	668,000	0	0
Darenth Woods Green Links Project	0	0	95,300	0	0
Dartford Creek investigations	0	0	0	20,000	930,000
Dartford Greenheart	0	0	0	40,000	824,909
Dartford Heath	0	0	38,680	0	0
Dartford Northern Gateway—CPO Strategy	0	0	0	420,000	425,000
Dartford Town Centre : Darenth Gateway Study	100,000	0	0	0	0
Dartford Town Centre : Darenth Valley Path	0	38,655	297,345	0	0
Dartford Town Centre : Environmental Improvements	0	413,779	1,071,221	0	0
Dartford Town Centre : Market Street Acquisition	160,000	0	0	0	0
Dartford Town Centre : Matrix Centre Acquisition	1,923,000	0	0	0	0
Dartford Town Centre : Milestone Garage Acquisition	350,000	0	0	0	0
Dartford Town Centre : Steam Crane Wharf Works	133,800	0	0	0	0
Dartford Town Centre : Unwins Depot	7,952,000	169,000	129,000	0	0
Dartford Town Centre Land Acquisition	3,545,000	0	0	0	0
Dartford Town Centre Townscape Heritage Initiative	0	0	59,147	0	0

£

Project	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Dartford Town Centre: Glaxo East Site	22,183	0	0	0	0
Dartford Town Centre: Viability and Master Planning	329,891	0	0	0	0
Ebbsfleet Connections	0	0	48,200	0	0
Enhancing The Enchanted Woodland	0	0	26,500	0	0
Fastrack—Additional LTP Assessment	27,315	0	0	0	0
Fastrack—Delivery of the Project	0	320,681	795,154	0	0
Fastrack—Implementation Strategy Study	0	0	0	0	0
Fastrack: Northfleet Embankment	0	0	32,748	0	0
Fastrack: PPP/PFI Project Development	936,752	0	0	0	0
Fastrack: Vehicle Procurement	2,500,805	0	0	0	0
Flying Start: Development Plan	0	100,000	0	0	0
Gateway Knowledge Alliance: Wilmington Hall School	0	30,700	0	0	0
GKA: North Kent Construction Skills Centres	0	0	2,200,000	0	0
GKA: Darent Federation Axton Chase	17,450	0	0	0	0
GKA: Darent Federation Dartford	17,450	0	0	0	0
GKA: Northfleet Arts Centre	35,000	0	0	0	0
GKA: Project Office Retention	0	29,307	0	0	0
GKA: Temple School	60,000	0	0	0	0
GKA: Thamesview School	60,000	0	0	0	0
GKA: Westlands School	60,000	0	0	0	0
Gravesend Community Woodland: Acquisitions	0	0	0	0	0
Gravesend Community Woodland: Consultation	164,000	166,000	86,000	0	0
Gravesend Community Woodland: Contingency	38,831	109,590	72,518	0	0
Gravesend Community Woodland: Habitat	5,000	713,000	52,000	0	0
Gravesend Community Woodland: Infrastructure	40,000	884,000	28,000	0	0
Gravesend Community Woodland: Initial Site Works	135,000	0	0	0	0
Gravesend Community Woodland: Site Delivery Team	122,000	154,000	125,000	0	0
Gravesend Community Woodland: A2 Footbridges	0	766,971	203,999	0	0
Gravesend Old Town Hall phase 1	0	0	0	950,000	0
Gravesend Riverside Leisure area	0	0	134,969	0	0
Gravesend Station Quarter Masterplan	38,300	0	0	0	0
Gravesend Town Centre Initiatives	0	0	0	0	0
Gravesend Transport Quarter	0	0	0	750,000	3,000,000
Gravesend Transport Quarter Pt A	0	25,000	199,788	0	0
Great Expectations: Thames and Medway Canal Cluster	0	0	0	77,000	1,331,310
Green Cluster MasterPlans for North Kent	0	0	170,000	0	0
Green Grid: Ancient Woodlands Country Park	3,700	0	0	0	0
Green Grid: CAMS	377,591	0	0	0	0

Project	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	£ 2009-10
Green Grid: Central Plaza	178,664	0	0	0	0
Green Grid: Dartford Heath	153,778	0	0	0	0
Green Grid: Enhancement of Darent Valley study	20,000	0	0	0	0
Green Grid: Hillyfields	142,986	0	0	0	0
Green Grid: Managing the Marshes	18,429	0	0	0	0
Green Grid: Ordnance Road Study	0	0	0	0	0
Green Grid: Shorne Wood Country Park	762,730	0	0	0	0
Green Grid: Swanscombe Heritage Park	142,089	0	0	0	0
Heritage Quarter Design	175,207	0	0	0	0
Homes and Roads Engineering Studies	0	220,000	423,557	0	0
Innovation Centre	49,695	1,830,280	1,420,025	0	0
Jeskyns Additional Spend	0	0	45,000	0	0
Managing the Marshes—Dartford	1,045,200	0	0	0	0
North East Gravesend : Accommodating Excellence	500,000	0	0	0	0
North East Gravesend: Gravesend/Canal Basin	0	250,000	0	-83,919	0
North East Gravesend: Viability and Master Planning	226,720	0	0	0	0
North Kent Environment: Ranscombe Farm	23,465	0	10,449	0	0
North Kent Environment: Regional Park	0	0	0	0	0
Northfleet Embankment: Red Lion Wharf	0	0	0	25,000	220,000
Northfleet Embankment fees	0	0	0	125,000	200,000
Northfleet Urban Country Park	0	0	76,423	0	0
Roman Road Cycle Path	0	0	131,423	0	0
SCC Sports Complex	0	310,000	0	0	0
SEEDA Thames Gateway Project Delivery	0	300,000	220,000	-28,288	0
Shorne Marshes and Shornemead Fort	0	2,788	172,212	-3,946	0
SRC: Transport Assessment and Feasibility Study	0	0	0	0	0
Stone Discovery Park Phase 1	0	0	62,000	0	0
Strategic Site Acquisition Strategy and Action Plan	0	0	0	0	0
SUSCON Skills and Learning Centre	0	0	134,000	0	0
SUSCON Skills Academy	0	0	0	0	3,000,000
Swanscombe Heritage Park	0	0	112,193	0	0
Swanscombe Regeneration	404,129	0	0	0	0
Swanscome Peninsula Feasibility Study	0	0	0	71,000	0
Thames and Medway Canal Study	0	0	60,667	0	0
The Bridge Innovation Lab	0	0	197,942	1	0
The Old Rectory	0	0	0	0	0
Town Centre Regeneration Gravesend	1,229,480	0	0	0	0
TT Demolition	0	0	0	0	1,250,000
Vocational Learning Centres	1,960,000	0	0	0	0

Leasehold Valuation Tribunal

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many cases were brought to the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal by local authority leaseholders in each local authority area in each year since 2005-06; and how many of these were wholly or partially upheld. [325302]

John Healey: The number of cases brought to the leasehold valuation tribunal by local authority leaseholders in each local authority area from 2005 to 2010 are

shown in the following table. It is not possible to say how many of these were wholly or partially upheld without disproportionate cost.

Local authority	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Eastern						
Braintree	0	0	0	2	0	0
Brentwood	0	0	0	0	1	0
Colchester	0	0	0	1	0	0
Dacorum	0	0	0	1	1	0
Harlow	0	3	1	0	1	0
Norwich	1	1	1	0	4	0
Oxford	0	0	0	0	1	0
Slough	0	1	1	2	0	0
Southend-on-Sea	0	0	2	0	0	0
St. Albans	1	0	0	10	0	0
Tendring	0	1	0	0	0	0
Three Rivers	0	0	1	0	1	0
London						
Barking and Dagenham	3	1	1	2	1	0
Barnet	1	1	1	2	0	0
Brent	4	1	0	4	1	0
Camden	17	28	23	22	21	5
City of London	1	1	1	0	0	0
Croydon	0	0	1	2	1	0
Ealing	2	0	0	1	2	1
Enfield	1	1	0	1	0	0
Greenwich	10	13	9	2	6	2
Hackney	4	0	4	3	2	2
Haringey	0	3	0	0	0	0
Harrow	0	0	0	2	0	0
Havering	1	0	0	1	0	0
Hillingdon	0	6	2	0	1	0
Hounslow	0	3	0	0	0	1
Islington	5	7	7	0	1	0
Kensington and Chelsea	1	3	2	6	10	2
Kingston upon Thames	1	0	1	0	0	0
Lambeth	12	51	15	4	4	0
Lewisham	1	2	4	2	2	1
Merton	0	4	0	0	0	0
Newham	1	3	5	3	1	2
Redbridge	0	0	2	2	1	1
Southwark	16	30	13	16	29	6
Sutton	2	0	0	2	0	0
Tower Hamlets	2	4	6	1	1	0
Waltham Forest	0	1	1	0	0	0
Wandsworth	1	5	3	2	7	0
Westminster	2	0	0	6	1	0
Midlands area						
Birmingham	1	6	1	4	8	0
Bromsgrove	0	1	0	0	0	0
Broxtowe	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dudley	0	0	0	0	1	0
Leicester	2	1	1	1	0	2
Lichfield	6	11	1	3	0	0
North Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	1	1
Nuneaton and Bedworth	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sandwell	1	0	2	4	0	0
Solihull	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tamworth	3	4	0	0	0	0
Northern						
Berwick upon-Tweed	0	0	0	1	0	0
Burnley	0	0	0	1	0	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	1	0
Leeds	1	0	0	1	0	0
Liverpool	0	0	0	2	2	0
Manchester	0	2	1	4	1	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	1	0	0	0	1	1
North East Lincolnshire	0	1	0	0	0	0
Oldham	0	0	1	0	1	0
Rochdale	0	1	0	1	0	0
Sheffield	0	1	1	0	4	0
South Lakeland	0	0	0	0	1	0
South Tyneside	0	0	0	1	1	1
Stockport	0	0	0	1	0	0
Southern						
Adur	0	0	0	1	0	0
Arun	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ashford	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bath and North East Somerset	0	0	0	0	1	0
Brighton and Hove	0	2	1	1	0	0
City of Bristol	0	4	1	1	1	0
Cheltenham	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dartford	0	0	0	1	0	0
Dover	1	4	1	0	0	0
Guildford	0	0	0	0	5	0
Medway	0	1	0	0	0	0
Plymouth	0	1	0	0	0	0
Poole	0	0	0	0	1	0
Portsmouth	0	0	1	1	1	0
Shepway	0	0	0	1	0	0
Southampton	1	2	0	0	2	0
Swindon	0	0	0	0	0	1
Torridge	1	0	0	0	0	0

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme: Cheshire

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms were used by his Department in determining the level of Local Authorities Business Growth Incentives Scheme grants allocated to *(a)* East Cheshire Local Authority and Council and *(b)* West Cheshire Local Authority and Council. [324997]

Barbara Follett: The current methodology for the calculation of the LABGI grants, which has applied in 2009-10 and 2010-11, is set out at paragraphs 16 to 19 of the Government's response to its consultation, published in July 2009, which can be viewed at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1291741.pdf

The same approach has been applied to all local authorities in England.

Local Government Finance: Northampton

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government provided in grants to Northampton Borough Council in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* the last year for which figures are available. [325068]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is tabled as follows:

Central Government grant

	£000
1997-98	13,863
2001-02	15,692
2005-06	18,718
2008-09	22,334

Source: Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn Summary (RS) returns.

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates), and specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services. In past years, where applicable the standard spending assessment reduction grant and Central Support Protection Grants have also been included. For 2008-09 it also includes Area Based Grant.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Comparison across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

Local Government: War Memorials

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role local authorities have in the construction of new war memorials. [312007]

Mr. Ian Austin: As has been the case since 1948, planning permission for any war memorial that constituted development would have to be granted by the local planning authority.

Local Housing Allowance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the *(a)* percentage and *(b)* cash change in level of local housing allowance in each area for (i) a bedsit, (ii) a one-bedroom property, (iii) a two-bedroom property, (iv) a three-bedroom property and (v) a four-bedroom property when the highest rents are excluded from the calculation. [325129]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

The Local Housing Allowance was rolled out from 7 April 2008 and is a more transparent way of calculating the rent element of housing benefit for people living in the deregulated private rented sector who make a new claim for housing benefit or for existing customers who change address.

Local housing allowance rates are set monthly by the Valuation Office Agency in England, Rent Officers Wales and Rent Service Scotland. They are published monthly by each local authority and at:

https://lha-direct.voa.gov.uk/secure/default.aspx

In Budget 2010 the Government announced that the top 1 per cent. of rents nationally would be removed from the market evidence for all bedroom sizes one to five in the calculation of local housing allowance rates, except the shared room rate. This will take effect for new claims from October 2011 and existing customers will be affected when their benefit rate is reviewed, usually at the anniversary point of their claim.

The estimates the Department for Work and Pensions have made on the impact of this measure on local housing allowance rates are based on the latest available list of rents from the Valuation Office Agency which relate to April 2009. Due to substantial changes to broad rental market area boundaries and local housing allowance rates since April 2009, and potential for further changes in the near future, it is not appropriate to break these figures down to identify impacts on specific areas.

According to our estimates, had the policy been introduced in April 2009, the number of customers who would see a decrease in their local housing allowance rate under this measure is around 2 per cent. of the local housing allowance caseload. The average loss for these customers is £24 (at April 2009 prices) although there is large variation on this from area to area and customer to customer. A few customers, such as those in five-bedroom houses in Central London, could see their awards decrease by significant amounts, while others would see their benefit change marginally.

Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many adults of working age were living in income-deprived households in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* constituency according to the most recent indices of multiple deprivation data. [324616]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The English Indices of Deprivation have, since 2004, been produced at Lower Level Super Output Area (LSOA) level. LSOAs are smaller than constituencies and are designed to remain consistent in size, and over time, to allow more detailed identification of pockets of deprivation. This also overcomes difficulties in producing statistics for electoral wards and parliamentary constituencies which are associated with frequent boundary changes. There are 32,482 LSOAs in England with an average population of 1,500 people.

The income scale measure from the local authority summaries for the 2007 indices represent the number of people within an area experiencing income deprivation. The local authority summaries can be downloaded from the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/xls/576504.xls

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to reply to the letter of 15 February 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr J. Skelton. [325127]

Mr. Ian Austin: A reply was sent on 29 March 2010.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in each constituency have received financial support under the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme to date. [324619]

John Healey: For management information on Homeowners Mortgage Support I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1297W. This information is not monitored at constituency level.

Non-domestic Rates: Licensed Premises

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether new requirements on licensed premises will be considered a material change of circumstances by the Valuation Office Agency for the purposes of business rate valuations and revaluations. [324039]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Whether or not any of the new requirements on licensed premises will constitute a material change in circumstances in the context of non-domestic rating valuations is dependent on the matter in question coming within the definition of such circumstances contained in schedule 6 paragraph 2(7) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. Guidance on the interpretation of these provisions, as informed by legal advice and decisions of the courts, is contained within the Valuation Office Agency's Rating Manual in Volume 2—Section 5. This is available online under the publications section of the VOA's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his estimate is of the amount of retrospective business rate payments *(a)* owed by newly-assessed port companies, *(b)* paid in full by such companies to date and *(c)* paid in first instalments under the scheme for paying rates off over eight years; how many companies have (i) paid in full and (ii) paid a first instalment; and what the estimated cost of the deferral scheme is to the public purse. [324132]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* As at December 23 2009, the Valuation Office Agency have advised my department that 724 newly assessed, port based properties are liable for backdated Rates to April 1 2005.

An estimate of the monetary value of the backdated liabilities was made in respect of all ratepayers (not just port based properties) and was published in the impact assessment alongside the Explanatory Memorandum for the Non-Domestic Rating (Collection and Enforcement) (Local Lists) (England) (Amendment) regulations 2009:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/em/uksiem_20090204_en.pdf

This states that the estimated backdated liability, before the application of any relief's, is forecast to be approximately £131 million and the cost of the scheme to be approximately £33 million.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some situated in ports. It has legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in a single instalment, helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87.5 per cent.

As at 8 October 2009, local authorities have reported that ratepayers occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and ratepayers occupying a further 200 business properties within ports had been granted a schedule of payments. The Government do not have information on how many payments, or of what amount, the 200 properties with schedule of payments agreements have made.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals for a moratorium on issuing of retrospective business rate demands on newly-assessed port companies. [324133]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* There are currently no plans to introduce a moratorium.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some within ports. They have legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in a single instalment, helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87.5 per cent.

As at 8 October 2009, local authorities have reported that ratepayers occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and ratepayers occupying a further 200 business properties within ports had been granted a schedule of payments.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for fast-track reassessment of retrospective business rates the Valuation Office Agency has received to date; and how many weeks the Valuation Office Agency has taken to conduct such reassessment in the case of each *(a)* completed and *(b)* uncompleted application to date. [324610]

Barbara Follett: In fairness to all ratepayers, the Valuation Office Agency has applied the fast track arrangements to all rating appeals on properties (hereditaments) within the 55 ports and container terminals in England and Wales, not just those properties that have had a retrospective assessment back to 1 April 2005.

The fast track arrangements were introduced on 24 November 2008. Up to 17 March 2010, 1,026 appeals have been subject to the fast track arrangements, *(a)* 644 appeals have been resolved and the average time taken to conclude each appeal has been 24 weeks. *(b)* There are 382 appeals outstanding and the average discussion time for these appeals is 30 weeks.

Non-domestic Rates: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many business premises in York have rateable values for 2010-11 of *(a)* less than £6,000 and *(b)* between £6,000 and £12,000; and how many of each of these categories of premises qualify for small business rate relief. [325124]

Barbara Follett: There are 1,850 hereditaments with a rateable value less than, or equal to, £6,000 and 1,300 hereditaments with a rateable value greater than £6,000 and less than, or equal to, £12,000 in the City of York.

The report "Small Business Rate Relief—improving evidence on eligibility and take-up" was published on December 9 2009 and it estimates that of the approximately 1.2 million non-domestic properties in England which fall below the current rateable value (RV) thresholds for SBRR, around 575,000 are occupied by eligible small businesses. This report has been validated by an independent peer review and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/

This methodology can only be applied to England as a whole. Therefore, it is not possible to estimate how many non-domestic properties qualify for SBRR in the City of York.

However, new experimental statistics on the number of hereditaments claiming small business rate relief (SBRR) published on the Communities and Local Government website on 25 February 2010, show that 462,000 hereditaments in England were benefiting from SBRR on December 31st 2008.

By applying that figure to the eligibility estimates made for the 2005 rating list it is estimated that around 80 per cent. of eligible hereditaments in England were claiming SBRR in 2008-09 - see table 1 as follows.

Relief granted to small businesses has increased since SBRR was introduced—from £202 million in 2005-06 to £298 million in 2008-09. This represents a real terms rise of 34 per cent. Furthermore, in 2008-09, 92 per cent. of the total relief available was claimed—see table as follows.

This statistical release is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/sbrrfeb2010

Table 1: Take-up of SBRR—numbers claiming

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Number of hereditaments actually claiming SBRR (thousands)	396	433	462
Number of hereditaments estimated to be occupied by eligible small businesses (thousands)	575	575	575
Percentage of estimated eligible actually claiming	69	75	80

Table 2: Take-up of SBRR 2005-06 to 2008-09—relief

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total relief that would be paid out if all properties estimated to be occupied by eligible small businesses were to claim[1]: (£ million)	295	300	315	325
Relief actually claimed: (£ million)	202	237	259	298
Percentage take-up[2]:	69	78	83	92

[1] For details of how this estimate was made please see the paper "Small business rate relief-improving evidence on eligibility and take-up: Methodology".
[2] Percentage of total relief, which would be paid if all eligible small businesses claimed it, that was actually paid.

Parallel Place Reviews

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which local authority areas parallel place reviews are being undertaken. [324015]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We do not have a list of all of the "parallel places" undertaking Total Place type activity. The Total Place pilots have demonstrated that the application of Total Place principles can bring benefits in service improvements and savings to all places and we would encourage all places to pursue this agenda.

Repossession Orders: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps he has taken to assist homeowners at risk of repossession in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands. [325048]

John Healey: Government have taken early and concerted action to provide people facing the threat of repossession with help at every stage of the process. Recent figures indicate that actions taken to help families avoid repossession are having some impact—more families are getting help to stay in their home. Total repossessions in 2009 were 46,000—39 per cent. fewer than originally predicted by the Council of Mortgage Lenders and around half the rate of repossessions in the last recession in 1991.

Coventry has been identified as a repossession hotspot and as such has been specifically targeted through the preventing repossessions awareness campaign.

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of social housing have been sold on the open market by registered social landlords *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in London in the last five years. [325298]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of registered social landlord sales to the private sector in England for the last five years are published by the Tenant Services Authority.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Disposals to the private sector	3,157	2,734	3,257	1,722	1,457
Other disposals	2,399	1,202	1,235	1,067	950
Total	5,556	3,936	4,492	2,789	2,407

Part K, lines 20 to 24 (2006-07 to 2008-09)
Part K, lines 17 to 21 (2005-06)
Part K, lines 18 to 22 (2004-05)
Notes:
1. Units: self-contained and shared bedspaces combined.
2. From 2005-06, RSLs that completed the short form were not required to complete this Part K.
3. From 2006-07, short returns were completed by RSLs who own and/or manage 999 units or less (previously this threshold was less than 250 units).
4. Figures may not add up due to rounding.
5. As disposals are in the long form only, this has been re-calculated for 2005-06 to reflect the threshold change in 2006-07.
Source:
Regulatory and Statistical Returns by Registered Social Landlords reported to the Tenant Services Authority.

As RSLs operate across regional boundaries and the data are reported as totals by each RSL, it is not possible to provide reliable estimates for London only.

It should be noted that a large (but unquantifiable) proportion of disposals on the open market are of dwellings built specifically for outright sale, the proceeds of which support the social housing programme.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of households in London who are *(a)* social tenants and *(b)* on housing waiting lists have household incomes above (i) £30,000, (ii) £40,000 (iii) £50,000 and (iv) £60,000. [325299]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Social Rented Housing: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing nominations have been made by each London local authority in each London sub-regional partnership since the inception of such partnerships. [325277]

John Healey: This information is not held by my Department.

Standards Board for England: Procurement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 26 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 778W, on the Standards Board for England: procurement, how much was spent on contracts with each supplier of the *(a)* Standards Board for England and *(b)* Homes and Communities Agency in 2008-09. [324004]

John Healey: A new list for both bodies, now also showing how much was spent with each supplier in 2008-09, has been deposited in the Library of the House. As the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was established on 1 December 2008, the figures for the HCA cover only 1 December 2008 to 31 March 2009. Further to my earlier answer referred to above, a small number of additional suppliers to the Standards Board have been identified and these have been included in the new list.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints his Department has received on MyDeposits.co.uk in each year since its inception. [325059]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has no role in dealing with complaints about the tenancy deposit protection scheme providers. Complaints about the handling of tenancy deposit protection cases are dealt with by the three scheme providers through their own formal complaints procedures.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review the operation of the Housing Act 2004 in respect of the regulation of licensed deposit-takers for the purpose of protecting tenants' deposits, with particular reference to MyDeposits.co.uk. [325060]

Mr. Ian Austin: As with any new legislation, we are monitoring the implementation of the tenancy deposit protection provisions in the Housing Act 2004. However, we have no plans to make any amendments to the legislation at present.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 720W, on travelling people: caravan sites, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Inspector's Handbook. [323147]

Mr. Malik: A final copy of the Inspectors' Handbook chapter relating to Gypsy and Traveller Appeals will be placed in the Library of the House when it is published.

Warm Front Scheme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to provide funding to local authorities for the purpose of assisting them to meet the new Warm Homes standard; what methodology will be used to assess compliance with that standard; and what timetable he has set for that standard to be met. [323987]

John Healey: "Warm Homes, Greener Homes: A Strategy for Household Energy Management" explains that the delivery of the new Warm Homes standard will be supported by a new energy company obligation and the Renewable Heat Incentive. It also explains how the Department will now work with the social housing

sector to develop the detail of the standard, the timing of its delivery, and the methodology for assessing how and when it will be met.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Mr. David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for which wind farms planning permission was *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused at appeal by the Planning Inspectorate in each of the last five years; and for what reasons in each case. [325283]

Mr. Ian Austin: There were a total of 67 appeals, relating to more than one wind turbine, decided between 2005 and 2009. The outcomes for these cases are shown in the table.

	(a) Granted/granted in part	*(b) Refused*
2005	3	0
2006	1	7
2007	2	5
2008	9	9
2009	22	9

The reasons for the outcome in each case were different, as each case was considered on its individual merits. The reasons are shown on the individual decisions. Copies of 56 of the appeal decisions have today been placed in the Library of the House. The files and formal appeal decisions for the remaining 11 cases are no longer held by the Planning Inspectorate.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 6 April 2010

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

BAE Systems: Fraud

David Howarth: To ask the Solicitor-General whether information obtained by the Serious Fraud Office during its investigations into BAE Systems about possible false declarations relating to *(a)* Romania and *(b)* South Africa been passed to the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [321330]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office has no record of passing information during its investigations into BAE Systems about possible false declarations relating to *(a)* Romania and *(b)* South Africa to the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

WALES

Departmental Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what account his Department's food procurement policy takes of animal welfare. [325524]

Mr. Hain: My Department does not have any catering facilities, and therefore does not routinely procure food.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in real terms. [324803]

Mr. Hain: It would not be possible to obtain this information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what such items were. [324711]

Mr. Hain: The cost of any items bought in the last five years, carrying the Wales Office logo could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department was in the last three years; and what *(a)* the cost and *(b)* purpose was of each. [324663]

Mr. Hain: The five most expensive receptions hosted by the Wales Office were as follows:

	Receptions	*Cost (£)*
July 2008	Summer reception in London	3,284
February 2008	St. David's Day reception in London	2,797
July 2008	Summer reception in Cardiff	2,609
December 2007	Christmas reception in London	2,594
December 2007	Christmas reception in Cardiff	2,464

SCOTLAND

Departmental Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what account his Department's food procurement policy takes of animal welfare. [325527]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not procure any meat or dairy products, with the exception of a very small quantity of milk.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325191]

Ann McKechin: We do not hold the information in the format requested. However, there were a small number of complaints regarding teething difficulties experienced when the Scotland Office website was re-designed in 2008-09. These arose as a result of broken links to Scotland Office web pages and the problems were subsequently addressed.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325209]

Ann McKechin: Figures are only available for each year as a total amount spent on web maintenance and include annual hosting fees. These costs represent the hosting, updating and development of the site.

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2007-08	2,990
2008-09	[1]19,292
2009-10	3,500

[1] The increase in 2008-09 includes a complete redesign and redevelopment of the website, hosting package for the site and full content management system for in-house staff to manage content.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* receptions and *(b)* other functions have been held at (i) Melville Crescent and (ii) Dover House since 1 October 2008; what the date was of each; who attended each; and what the cost of the catering was for each. [325394]

Ann McKechin: The receptions and functions held in Dover House and Melville Crescent since October 2008 are listed in the following table. Where a reception was hosted by Scotland Office Ministers the cost to the Scotland Office of so doing is detailed in this table. Records are not routinely kept of those guests who attend a reception although such receptions usually attract a cross party representation of Scottish MPs, Peers, lobby correspondents and other stakeholders. Where a reception has been arranged by a third party attendees and the cost of catering are matters for the third party.

Dover House

		£
1 October 2008	National Fraud Strategic Authority	—
8 October 2008	CBI Scotland	—
15 October 2008	Poppyscotland	—
21 October 2008	David Torrance book launch	—
23 October 2008	Royal Caledonian Schools Trust	—
12 November 2008	UKBA	—
18 November 2008	Commission on Scottish Devolution	—
26 November 2008	Secretary of State's lunch for the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland	3,718
27 November 2008	Scottish Development International	—
15 December 2008	Community Service Volunteers	—
16 December 2008	Scotch Whisky Association	—
20 January 2009	250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns: launch of Royal Mail commemorative stamps and Royal Mint commemorative coins	152
26 January 2009	Association of Scottish Colleges	1,938
24 February 2009	Scottish North American Business Council	—
17 March 2009	CBI Scotland	—
23 March 2009	Institute of Chartered Accountants Scotland	—
1 April 2009	Reception for media attending the G20 summit	5,065
6 May 2009	MG ALBA	—
13 May 2009	Hamish McDonnell book launch	—
14 May 2009	University of Stirling Alumni	—
19 May 2009	Scottish Financial Enterprise	—
6 June 2009	King's Own Scottish Borderers Association	—
9 June 2009	Spouses in the Houses	—
10 June 2009	National Trust for Scotland	—
11 June 2009	Poppyscotland	—
13 June 2009	Secretary of State's reception for Trooping the Colour	6,311
17 June 2009	Scottish Council for Development and Industry	2,030
6 July 2009	John Smith Memorial Trust	—
15 September 2009	International Capital Conference China	—
14 October 2009	Poppyscotland	—
21 October 2009	Federation of Small Businesses Scotland	—
27 October 2009	CBI Scotland	—
3 November 2009	Institute of Chartered Accountants Scotland	—
25 November 2009	Secretary of State's lunch for the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland	4,123
8 December 2009	Scotch Whisky Association	—
9 December 2009	Crown Estate	—
16 March 2010	CBI Scotland	—

Melville Crescent

		£
18 December 2008	Annual reception for the Scottish media	207
26 June 2009	Armed Forces Day and Veterans Scotland	2,312
23 June 2009	Ministerial dinner	751
18 August 2009	Secretary of State's reception for Edinburgh Festivals	2,426
8 October 2009	Ministerial dinner	754
27 November 2009	Women's National Commission	68
3 December 2009	Annual reception for the Scottish media	858
10 December 2009	Ministerial dinner	799
28 January 2010	Ministerial dinner	754

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many receptions and functions he has hosted at locations other than Melville Crescent and Dover House since 1 October 2008; on what date each was held; what the location was of each function; who attended each; and what the cost of hire was of the facilities and the catering for each. [325395]

Ann McKechin: None.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in his Department in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 to date. [325105]

Ann McKechin: The total reimbursable expenses paid to special advisers are as follows:

	Amount reimbursed (£)
2008-09	10,751
2009-10 (April 2009 to February 2010)	7,564

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Conservation Areas: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 270W, on conservation areas: waste disposal, if he will place in the Library a copy of the written advice provided by English Heritage to local authorities on household wheeled refused containers in conservation areas. [324528]

Margaret Hodge: English Heritage has not provided standard advice to local authorities on household wheeled refuse containers in conservation areas. English Heritage's Streets for All manuals offer guidance on accommodating modern needs to reduce the impact of street clutter on conservation areas.

The manuals are available to download from the English Heritage website at:

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.8682

Departmental Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what account his Department's food procurement policy takes of animal welfare. [325532]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has no canteen facilities which use meat or fresh dairy products.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325201]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

2007 (0)

2008 (3)

1. No print format on press releases 2. Use of lower case initial letters on DCMS website 3. Usability of contact us form 4. Request to remove consultation response 5. Broken RSS feed.

2009 (6)

1. Broken RSS feed 2. Inaccessibility and usability of contact us form 3. Broken link to DCMS document 4. Request to remove consultation response 5. Usability of contact us form 6. Missing DCMS document 7. Request to remove consultation response 8. Badly redacted document. 9. Inaccessible document format. No facility to auto forward information by e-mail.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325219]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Over the last three years, the only spend on external website design consultants has been in the current financial year. The Department spent £13,000 on external website design consultants to update and enhance the homepage and improve user journey and digital functionality.

Museums and Galleries: Newcastle upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue assistance was provided by the Arts Council to Newcastle city council for the (i) purchase and (ii) redevelopment of derelict buildings in High Bridge, Newcastle for the Waygood Art Gallery in the last five years; and how much has been spent to date. [325180]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* Arts Council England has paid Newcastle city council £871,281 in capital funds to support the redevelopment of the Waygood Gallery. Revenue funding has gone directly to the gallery.

Sports: Training

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what means the national sporting governing bodies plan to undertake their consultation on the review of the UK Coaching Certificate; and what partner organisations in each sport each governing body plans to support. [324943]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC) Review is being led by Sportscoach UK, Sport England and SkillsActive. The review will be conducted in partnership with national governing bodies (NGBs) of sport, the Home Country Sports Councils and UK Sport. The NGBs will be consulted throughout this process and, following the completion of the review, the NGBs may choose to reassess the construction of their coaching awards should they feel it is necessary.

This review incorporates the following elements:

National Occupational Standards and Common Units

UKCC endorsement criteria

UKCC endorsement process

UKCC support to sports

UKCC Communication and Marketing

UKCC Costings.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects Sportscoach UK to issue guidance on the preferred structure for sports awarding bodies. [324965]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* The UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC) Review is being led by Sportscoach UK, Sport England and SkillsActive. The national governing bodies (NGBs) of sport will be consulted throughout this process and following the completion of the review the NGBs may choose to reassess the construction of their coaching awards should they feel it is necessary.

The findings from the UK Coaching Certificate Review are due to be announced during the UK Coaching Summit at the end of June this year.

Tourism: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has for the future level of funding for tourism. [322496]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* Beyond the current spending round, no decisions have been taken on the future funding levels for tourism.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Research

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was allocated by his Department for agricultural research and development in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [324236]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA funding of research on agriculture and food (including animal health and welfare) over the last three financial years is shown in the following table:

	£ million
2008-09	63
2007-08	68
2006-07	75

Source: DEFRA Science Information System.

Figures for 2009-10 will not be available till after the end of the financial year but the expenditure is expected to be in the region of £64 million. This includes DEFRA's contribution to the new Technology Strategy Board (TSB), DEFRA and Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council innovation platform for sustainable agriculture and food (SAF), which will invest up to £90 million over five years in match-funding for industry for agricultural research. The TSB contribution represents £50 million of additional sponsorship for the agricultural sector.

Coastal Erosion

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what compensation is payable to owners of land lost as a result of the Environment Agency's Managed Realignment programme. [325455]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Where the Environment Agency has carried out the managed realignment of existing raised defences any land owner who considers that they have been adversely affected can make a claim for compensation. The legal provisions for this are set out in section 177 and Schedule 21 of the Water Resources Act 1991.

The value of damages and losses is assessed by professional valuers acting for the Environment Agency and it pays for the costs of a professional valuer to act on behalf of the landowner. All claims are assessed on their own merits and if agreement cannot be reached the matter can be referred to the Lands Tribunal. The level of compensation paid will vary depending upon the local circumstances and the damage suffered.

If the Environment Agency secures agreement to buy the land then it is purchased at the market value.

Dairy Farming

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on proposals for large-scale dairy units. [324742]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has recently received correspondence on one particular proposal for a large-scale dairy unit.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many smoking shelters have been built for his Department's staff in the last five years; and at what cost. [324355]

Dan Norris: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not built nor incurred any expenditure on smoking shelters for staff in the last five years.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies have spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324438]

Dan Norris: The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and its agencies have spent the amounts shown as follows on rooms for staff leisure:

Foss House: Kings Pool, York—£171,800 (gym and pool room): 2008-09

Nobel House: London—£65,000 (gym): 2008-09.

These are the only amounts spent in the last five years.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324562]

Dan Norris: DEFRA does not provide directly subsidised gym facilities for its staff. There are several such facilities on the core-DEFRA estate, but all these are managed by volunteer staff committees and paid for through membership subscriptions.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324676]

Dan Norris: Identifying expenditure on interior design in relation to office refurbishment in each of the last five years incurred by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when undertaking office refurbishment could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information technology projects initiated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were cancelled prior to completion in the last 12 months; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [320427]

Dan Norris: The Department has not cancelled any IT projects since April 2009.

The Rural Payments Agency cancelled the Microsoft Project Server project at a cost to the public purse of £183,140.76, and postponed the Customer Communications Improvement programme at a cost of £60,843.48. The Food and Environment Research Agency cancelled an IT project to extend the Laboratory Information Management System for use in a Forensic DNA profile facility. FERA spent a total £70,000 of staff time configuring existing IT systems. No other departmental agency has cancelled any IT projects since April 2009.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many regulations have been *(a)* introduced and *(b)* revoked by his Department in each year since its establishment. [323111]

Dan Norris: The information requested is tabled as follows:

	Number SIs introduced	*Number SIs revoked*
2000	92	39
2001	143	82
2002	115	60
2003	105	45
2004	133	45
2005	139	32
2006	144	18
2007	165	21
2008	87	110
2009	96	57
2010	[1]36	[1]22

[1] As at March 2010.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what those items were. [324712]

Dan Norris: The Departmental Communications Directorate's spend on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo is detailed in the table.

Detailed spend by DEFRA agencies is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Item description	*Cost (£)*
2005	
T-Shirts	475
2006	
T-Shirts	475
Toothbrush travel set	435
Pens	3,550
Travel wallets	13,025
2007	
Pens	1,600
Travel wallets	6,650
2008	
T-Shirts	500
Pens	1,600
Mugs	2,700
Travel wallets	7,500
2009	
T-Shirts	497.50
Pens	2,980
Mugs	2,670
Travel wallets	6,375

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records his Department maintains of the reimbursable expenses paid to its special advisers. [325116]

Dan Norris: DEFRA records payment of reimbursable expenses made to special advisers in its financial system.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322647]

Dan Norris: Measures to deter, prevent and detect theft are an essential feature of the Department's protective security controls. These controls reflect the standards set out in the HMG Security Policy Framework (SPF) issued by the Cabinet Office and available at:

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/spf.aspx

It would not be appropriate to provide details of specific controls as this could undermine their effectiveness.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to questions in the formulation "if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997" could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323863]

Dan Norris: Where the total cost to the Department of obtaining an answer to a parliamentary question is over £800, this is considered to be a disproportionate cost.

Environment Protection: Coastal Areas

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether his Department allocates funding to coastal local authorities for tackling the effects of coastal erosion; [323695]

(2) how much his Department spent on tackling coastal erosion in each of the last five years. [323700]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The majority of the investment for all flood and coastal erosion risk management activity is now delivered through grants from DEFRA to the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency invests directly in coastal flood risk management and also gives grants to local authorities and internal drainage boards.

The following table shows the grants that were allocated to coastal local authorities for coastal erosion risk management in the last five financial years. Levels of grant allocation for coastal erosion in part reflect the number and nature of schemes coming forward in any one year. For example, 2006-07 and 2007-08 were characterised by a number of large schemes such as that in Blackpool which was allocated £12 million and £17 million in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

	£ million
2005-06	52
2006-07	65.7
2007-08	49
2008-09	32
2009-10	30

Source:
DEFRA website and Environment Agency financial records.

Local authorities can also fund coastal erosion risk management using a number of sources, including central Government specific grants, council tax and formula grant from central Government. The following table gives final outturn estimates of local authority revenue expenditure and financing (i.e. formula grant) for coast protection for the last five financial years. Further details on this expenditure are not held centrally.

Local authority revenue outturn for coast protection, net current expenditure

	£ million
2005-06	13.8
2006-07	13.6
2007-08	14.5
2008-09	14.8
2009-10	[1]14.3

[1] Budget not outturn.

Source:
Department for Communities and Local Government, revenue expenditure and financing statistics.

The Government have also directly allocated £11 million funding to 15 coastal local authorities through the coastal change pathfinder programme that was announced in December 2009. The pathfinders, working in partnership with their local communities, are exploring a range of new and innovative approaches to help communities adapt to the effects of coastal change (including coastal erosion).

Horses

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his latest estimate is of the number of horses in England; and how that estimate was calculated. [324876]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The latest estimate of the horse population is taken from the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) National Equestrian Survey 2005-06. This survey estimates the horse population of Great Britain to be 1.3 million. There are no estimates available for England only.

Horses: Travel

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many horses entered the UK with no requirement for a UK passport in the latest year for which figures are available; what his latest assessment is of the effectiveness of horse passports and the National Equine Database; and if he will make a statement. [324880]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information is not collected on the number of horses entering the UK without a valid passport. Horse passports legislation requires any horse without a valid passport to have an application submitted to an EU-approved issuing body within 30 days of arrival in the UK.

The National Equine Database contains details of all horse passports issued and amended in the UK. Information is uploaded on a monthly basis.

Incinerators

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on safety concerns regarding the inclusion of incinerator bottom ash in road building and other construction materials; and if he will make a statement. [324235]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has not received any direct representations on the use of incinerator bottom ash in road building and construction materials. However, a technical advisory group has been established, which is currently pooling evidence to demonstrate whether end-of-waste criteria can be met. The Environment Agency is working closely with industry to obtain additional data to help this process.

More information is available on the Environment Agency's website at:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/waste/114416.aspx

Inland Waterways

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the assessment made by British Waterways of *(a)* its waterways network infrastructure and *(b)* the elements of its waterways network infrastructure not categorised as principal assets; and if he will make a statement. [325335]

Huw Irranca-Davies: British Waterways categorises the condition of its principal and most significant non-principal assets using a five-point condition grading system of A (very good) through to E (bad) in order to establish priorities for maintenance work. The latest information available as at 31 March 2009[1] is as follows:

[1] Information provided by British Waterways.

	Grade description (Percentage)					
	A: Very good	B: Good	C: Fair	D: Poor	E: Bad	Assets assessed
Principal assets	3.6	22.3	54.1	17.6	2.4	10,516
Significant non-principal assets						
Towpath	19.1	26.7	35.2	15.3	3.7	2,718 km
Bank protection	10.8	33.2	38.4	12.7	4.9	5,220 km (both sides of canal)
Lock gates	13.8	21.9	40.9	15.8	7.6	3,362

British Waterways take a risk-based approach in using the funding available to maintain the network. They concentrate on those assets in the poorest condition and that have the highest consequence of failure e.g. in terms of safety or the impact on the wider network.

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will provide funds to British Waterways to restore to good condition its assets assessed as *(a)* already defective and *(b)* at risk of becoming defective; and if he will make a statement. [325336]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The level of grant funding for the waterways will be a decision for the next Spending Review and will need to balance long-term sustainability of the waterways with the overall fiscal position at the time. Government grant are, however, not the sole factor in determining what is spent on the waterways—efficiency savings, third party funding and commercial income are also very important.

Spend on maintenance of the network is a priority for British Waterways who take a risk-based approach in using the funding available to maintain the network. They concentrate on those assets in the poorest condition and that have the highest consequence of failure e.g. in terms of safety or the impact on the wider network.

Marine Conservation Zones

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what use will be made of scientific evidence in identifying marine conservation zones under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009; [325467]

(2) whether the seven principles of ecological coherence will be adhered to in the designation of marine conservation zones; [325468]

(3) whether the minimum conservation objective for marine conservation zones will be that of favourable condition. [325469]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Sherwood (Paddy Tipping) on 29 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 609-10W.

Marine Management Organisation

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff there will be in each coastal office of the Marine Management Organisation from 1 April 2010. [325067]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Marine Management Organisation is due to vest on 1 April 2010 and will manage coastal offices currently under the control of the Marine and Fisheries Agency. On 1 April 2010 there will be 102 staff employed in coastal offices. The following table details the number of staff in each of these coastal offices:

Staff in post at location	
Location	Number
Amble	1
Blackpool (coastal office, training centre)	12
Brixham	10
Grimsby	8
Hartlepool	2
Harwich	2
Hastings	5
Kings Lynn	2
Lowestoft	7
Newlyn	10
North Shields	8
Penryn	4
Plymouth	9
Poole	6
Portsmouth	2
Scarborough	7
Shoreham	5
Whitehaven	2

Nature Conservation: Crime

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have been charged with offences related to wildlife crime since July 2009. [325343]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Information on how many people were charged with offences related to wildlife crime since July 2009 is not held centrally.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes he plans to make to his Department's policy on nitrate vulnerable zones; and if he will make a statemept. [325278]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Nitrates Directive requires each member state to review its nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ) designation and Nitrates Action programme every four years. Any changes as a result of the next review in England will be implemented from January 2013.

DEFRA will be working closely with the farming industry, other interested parties and the European Commission over the next two years to consider what changes might be necessary.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has undertaken costings of the policies of the *(a)* Conservative Party and *(b)* Liberal Democrat Party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months. [324249]

Dan Norris: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Portsmouth, North (Sarah McCarthy-Fry) on 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1044W.

Pets: Vaccination

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations the Veterinary Medicines Directorate has received on pet vaccination intervals. [324873]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Canine Health Concern (CHC) sent an open letter on pet vaccination intervals dated 10 February 2010 to the Chief Executive of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD).

Following the open letter from CHC the VMD has received 39 additional letters from concerned members of the public either directly or via their MPs referring to it. The VMD has placed the CHC's open letter and its response on the VMD website

www.vmd.gov.uk

Recycling: Greater London

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to page 47 of the Office for Government Commerce publication, The State of the Estate in 2009, if he will place in the Library a copy of the documentation produced for staff on his Department's bin the bin initiative. [324816]

Dan Norris: A copy of the 'Bin the Bin' Business Case will be placed in the Library.

Rights of Way: Cycling

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the provisions of section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 on access to open countryside for equestrians and cyclists. [325130]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There have been no instances where dedication of land under section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 has had an effect on access to open countryside for equestrians and cyclists.

Waste Disposal: EU Action

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1003W, on waste disposal: EU action, if he will place in the Library a copy of each document for the two workshops held on 2 April and 14 September 2009 on the establishment of a Waste Implementation Agency that are held by his Department. [324837]

Dan Norris: I have placed the following documents produced by the European Commission in the Library:

(a) The Study on the feasibility of the establishment of a Waste Implementation Agency—Overview;

(b) The Waste Agency study—April workshop—summary;

(c) The Summary of the study's interim report; and

(d) The Waste Agency study—September workshop—summary.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1003W, on waste disposal: EU action, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Government's response to the questionnaire on the feasibility of establishing a Waste Implementation Agency. [324838]

Dan Norris: I have placed the UK's response of 8 April 2009 to the European Commission's informal "Questionnaire for Member State Officials" on the feasibility of establishing a Waste Implementation Agency in the Library.

TRANSPORT

A5: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what plans he has to widen the A5 between Wolfshead and Queen's Head; and if he will make a statement; [325443]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the condition of the A5 between Shrewsbury and the Shropshire/Wales border; and if he will make a statement. [325541]

Chris Mole: There are currently no plans to widen the A5 between Wolfshead and Queen's Head. The A5 Queen's Head to Wolfshead widening scheme was submitted in the Regional Funding Advice submission to the Government at the end of February 2009. The West Midlands Regional Assembly's decision was not to prioritise the scheme for funding in the period 2009-19.

The A5 between Wolfshead roundabout and Shotatton is currently in good condition. The section of carriageway from Shotatton to Queen's Head is due to be surface dressed between June and July 2010 to improve the condition of the surface. A survey is currently programmed to identify the causes of a surface water drainage issue approximately 400 metres south of the Queen's Head Junction.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many people have been injured on the A5 between Shrewsbury and the Shropshire/Wales border in each of the last 12 years; [325542]

(2) how many people have been killed on the A5 between Shrewsbury and the Shropshire/Wales border in each of the last 12 years. [325543]

Chris Mole: The following table shows the number of people killed or injured on the A5 between Telford and Shropshire/Wales border, in each of the last 12 years. These figures have been provided by the police and validated by the Department. It has not been possible to disaggregate the data to only report on Shrewsbury to Shropshire/Wales border casualties.

	Fatal	Serious	Number Slight
1997	5	28	108
1998	1	22	94
1999	6	23	82
2000	2	23	102
2001	2	18	104
2002	6	14	86
2003	2	14	74
2004	2	13	107
2005	1	11	73
2006	3	10	84
2007	0	3	107
2008	1	6	85

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many times the A5 between Shrewsbury and the Shropshire/Wales border has been closed for road works in each of the last five years; [325544]

(2) how many times the A5 between Shrewsbury and the Shropshire/Wales border has been closed following a road traffic accident in each of the last five years. [325545]

Chris Mole: The following table show the number of times the A5 between Shrewsbury and the Shropshire/Wales border has been closed for roadworks and following a road traffic accident, for each of the last five years:

	Total number of closures in both directions due to roadworks	Total number of closures due to road traffic accident (figures include closures in one or both carriageways)
2005	1	5
2006	4	6
2007	3	10
2008	1	6
2009	0	4

Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions Ministers of his Department and its predecessors have visited the London borough of Bexley on official business since 1997. [325774]

Chris Mole: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Cycling: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to increase the number of people using bicycles in Shropshire. [325439]

Mr. Khan: Shropshire benefits from four main streams of departmental funding to encourage cycling in England.

Local Transport Plan funding

Shropshire received £4,011,000 integrated transport funding for 2009-10. Funding for other years is available on the Department for Transport website under "Funding for local transport". Local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. The Department does not keep records of local funding decisions.

Cycle City and Town funding

Shrewsbury was chosen as a cycle town in June 2008 and is funded until 2010-11. Departmental funding is used to encourage cycling in the town. The funding is match funded by Shropshire council.

	Shrewsbury (£)
2008-09	600,000
2009-10	800,000
2010-11	665,000
Total	2,065,000

Links to schools

The Department funds links to schools to encourage cycling and walking to schools, as a contribution to the total cost, with the rest of the funding coming from the local authority.

	Location	DfT fund (£)	Total cost (£)
2004-05	Shrewsbury	28,000.00	201,571.00
2004-05	Whitchurch	1,589.00	3,177.92
2004-05	Albrighton	27,000.00	61,533.08
2004-05	Market Drayton	1,756.00	3,512.00
2004-05	Oswestry	35,000.00	70,504.00
2006-07	Shrewsbury	38,000.00	344,000.00
2006-07	Shifnal	5,000.00	35,607.00
2006-07	Shawbury	10,000.00	76,420.00
2009-10	Oswestry	46,531.56	159,870.90
2009-10	Ware	10,000.00	20,000.00

Cycle training grants

Local authorities apply for grants to train school children in Bikeability level 2. Bikeability level 2 is an approved cycle training course normally undertaken by children in years five to six (ages 10-11).

Shropshire received the following:

	Shropshire (£)
2008-09	20,000.00
2009-10	31,996.00

Departmental Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what account his Department's food procurement policy takes of animal welfare. [325526]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport conducts its procurement in accordance with UK Government's value for money policies and principles, utilising collaborative arrangements where these are available and in accordance with the legal and regulatory framework.

The Department and its agencies generally provide staff catering and vending services via estates private finance initiative or facilities management contracts. These provisions are typically provided on a commercial basis and are not directly subsidised, and they operate in a very competitive environment.

For example, the Department's headquarter facilities management contract requires the contractor to comply with Government guidance on sustainable food and farming in the delivery of the contract. The contract also requires the contractor to take into account the Government's commitment to the public sector food procurement initiative, and directs them to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs websites. Thus the contractor is encouraged to consider higher level schemes for food standards and animal welfare.

Another example is the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's estates private finance initiative contract, which requires the service provider to comply with the sustainable food procurement initiative and other Government guidance on food and farming in delivery of the service.

As and when each of the Department's catering contracts needs to be renewed, consideration will be given to emerging higher level welfare standards when specifying replacement contracts.

Hang Gliding and Paragliding: EU Action

Jacqui Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the possible effects on the sports of hang gliding and paragliding of proposals in the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation consultation on the draft Standardised European Rules of the Air; and if he will meet the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association to discuss the proposals. [325387]

Paul Clark: Eurocontrol is preparing the draft implementing rule on Standardised European Rules of the Air on behalf of the European Commission under the umbrella of the Single European Sky (SES) initiative.

The preliminary view of the Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is that the proposals will not impact adversely on hang gliding and paragliding activities as the CAA, as the Competent Authority for the purposes of the legislation, will retain the discretion to permit visual flight rule flights. However, the UK will continue to seek clarity from Eurocontrol on the intent of the element of the regulation which concerns the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (BHPA).

The Department has set up a UK European Air Traffic Management Stakeholders Forum, as a requirement of the SES legislation, at which policy officials directly concerned in this work update aviation stakeholders across the board on SES proposals and elicit views. The BHPA is on the invitee list for the Forum which will next be convened in late spring. In the meantime, Eurocontrol's consultation is still open till 12 April for the BHPA to express its concerns directly to the Agency.

Humber Bridge

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects all lanes of the Humber Bridge to be open to traffic. [325708]

Mr. Khan: The lane restrictions are a matter for the Humber Bridge Board. My understanding is these are currently in place at the Humber Bridge and are essential for traffic management for the dehumidification work on the bridge, and that they will need to be implemented on a regular basis over the next two years.

The works have been carefully planned to avoid contraflow on the bridge other than when absolutely essential and generally only on weekends.

Humber Bridge: Tolls

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will consider requiring the Humber Bridge Board to reduce the level of toll on the Humber Bridge during periods when lane closure is in force. [325705]

Mr. Khan: There are currently lane restrictions in place at the Humber Bridge to allow dehumidification work to take place. The Board is monitoring closely the impact of the lane closures on congestion on the bridge. Toll levels are a matter for the Bridge Board. The tolls are levied for the crossing of the estuary and that service is being maintained.

Lorries: Testing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many tests of heavy goods vehicles the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency conducted outside core business hours between April 2009 and February 2010. [325709]

Paul Clark: The total number of heavy goods vehicles tested (both motor vehicles and trailers) outside normal working hours between April 2009 and February 2010 was 9,963. This consists of first and annual tests and retests.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on levels of demand for conducting annual tests of heavy goods vehicles outside standard working hours. [325710]

Paul Clark: Customer input into the requirements for, and likely uptake of, extended opening hours for annual tests of heavy goods vehicles has been provided from direct customer feedback and through quantitative customer research with 500 service agents in 2009-10 and a similar survey in 2008.

Public Transport: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the average daily number of people using *(a)* buses and *(b)* trains in Shropshire in each of the last five years. [325442]

Mr. Khan: For bus usage, data for Shropshire are available from the local government National Indicator Set. The following table shows the figures for Shropshire for the relevant National Indicator (number 177—local bus and light rail passenger journeys originating in the authority area).

Local bus journeys originating in Shropshire, 2004-05 to 2008-09

Thousand

	Total journeys[1] during year	*Average journeys[1] per day[2]*
2004-05	6,458	17.7
2005-06	6,359	17.4
2006-07	6,678	18.3
2007-08	6,723	18.4
2008-09	6,793	18.6

[1] The national indicator definition includes bus and light rail journeys in these totals, although there are presently no light rail systems in Shropshire.
[2] Average journeys per day for all days in the year, including weekends, school holidays and public holidays. The working day average is likely to be higher than shown here.
Source:
National Indicator Set

These data are not necessarily consistent with the Department for Transport's published official statistics on bus patronage, and they have not gone through the same reconciliation and consistency checks. Department for Transport bus patronage statistics cannot be released at local authority level, owing to the assurances of commercial confidentiality given to local bus operators.

The Department for Transport does not hold any corresponding data on passenger rail journeys.

Railways: Construction

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) whether he has made an estimate of the number of business premises in *(a)* the parish of Coldharbour, *(b)* the parish of Aylesbury, *(c)* the parish of Stoke Mandeville, *(d)* the parish of Ellesborough, *(e)* the parish of Wendover, *(f)* the parish of Great Missenden and *(g)* the county of Buckinghamshire which lie within (i) 100, (ii) 200, (iii) 300, (iv) 400 and (v) 500 metres of his Department's preferred route for High Speed Two; and if he will make a statement; [322932]

(2) whether he has made an estimate of the number of dwellings in *(a)* the parish of Coldharbour, *(b)* the parish of Aylesbury, *(c)* the parish of Stoke Mandeville, *(d)* the parish of Ellesborough, *(e)* the parish of Wendover, *(f)* the parish of Great Missenden and *(g)* the county of Buckinghamshire which lie within (i) 100, (ii) 200, (iii) 300, (iv) 400 and (v) 500 metres of his Department's preferred route for High Speed Two; and if he will make a statement. [322934]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* The effects of the recommended route on properties will be made available as part of the Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS), on which work is continuing. The AoS will be published later in the year in order to inform the formal public consultation which we expect to launch in the autumn. The Government will write to the owners of relevant properties at this time. Additional design work will be required to refine HS2 Ltd's proposals, and this would be likely to reduce the number of properties affected.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will send a copy of the consultation document on the Exceptional Hardship Scheme for the London-Birmingham high speed rail link to *(a)* each franchise that his Department considers may qualify for the scheme and *(b)* each parish council in which one or more such household is located. [325177]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* Copies of the consultation document on the proposed Exceptional Hardship Scheme have been sent to the parties listed at Annex B in the consultation document. The National Association of Local Councils, which represents the 8,500 town and parish councils in England, was sent copies of the consultation materials. Any interested party can respond to the consultation.

Copies of the consultation document are available on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/2010-18/

and can be ordered free of charge from DfT Publications (0300 123 1102) or

www.dft.gov.uk/foi/dftps/howtoobtaindftpublications/form

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) if he will publish the reports of all passenger demand modelling *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned by his Department on the proposed HS2 routes; [325389]

(2) if he will publish the results of the investigations which have been made into the effect of modal switch in the context of passenger demand modelling for HS2; what methodology was used in the investigation; and if he will make a statement. [325390]

Chris Mole: All work commissioned and undertaken on demand modelling and on modal switch for HS2 Ltd.'s report was published alongside the Government's Command Paper on 11 March. In particular, I refer the hon. Member to HS2 Ltd.'s "Demand and Appraisal Report", published on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2ltd/demandandappraisal/

Railways: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with rail operators on rail services between London and stations in Shropshire. [325441]

Chris Mole: There have been recent discussions at official level with Wrexham, Shropshire and Marylebone Railway and Chiltern Railways regarding services between London and stations in Shropshire. These discussions are ongoing.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many fatal road accidents there have been in North Shropshire constituency in each month of each year since 1997. [325440]

Paul Clark: The information requested in shown in the following table:

Reported fatal personal injury road accidents in North Shropshire constituency[1], by month: 1997 to 2008

Year/month	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Fatal accidents Total
1997	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	5
1998	1	1	1	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	9
1999	3	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	10
2000	0	0	3	3	2	2	0	3	0	2	0	0	15
2001	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	3	1	2	12
2002	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	2	0	2	10
2003	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	1	0	7
2004	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	5
2005	4	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	2	12
2006	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
2007	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	7
2008	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	6

[1] Based on 2004 parliamentary constituency boundaries.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on *(a)* road building and *(b)* road maintenance in the latest year for which figures are available. [325396]

Mr. Khan: In 2008-09 the Department for Transport allocated £246 million to local authorities for local major road schemes. The Highways Agency (an agency of this Department) spent £725 million on road building.

In 2008-09 the Highways Agency spent £914 million on maintenance of the strategic road network. The Department does not directly maintain local authority roads. However, it provides capital maintenance funding to local authorities (outside London) as part of the Local Transport Plan settlement; and funding as part of the private finance initiative. Information about the amounts allocated can be found at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/localauthorities/funding/fundingstreams/capital/

Sea Rescue: Flamborough Head

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the works required to make Flamborough Head coastguard station compliant with safety regulations. [325706]

Paul Clark: Following a recent inspection by the local fire and rescue service, the estimated cost to improve safety in the Flamborough Head property is £4,200. The cost to install an external fire escape to the three-storey property is in the region of £20,000.

Thameslink Railway Line

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of the provision of more than one additional train maintenance depot for Thameslink stations. [R] [325778]

Chris Mole: The Thameslink Programme will enable the operation of a high-frequency service through central London to destinations both north and south of London. In recognition of this, the train maintenance strategy is based on there being two new depots, one north of London and the other south of London. A two-depot strategy will provide the most efficient means of servicing the new Thameslink fleet.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the introduction of the new Thameslink trains of the time taken to construct the additional train maintenance depots. [R] [325779]

Chris Mole: The current programme for the introduction of the new fleet of trains shows the first trains entering passenger service in early 2014. Our plans assume that at least one of the two new depots proposed for this new fleet of trains will be operational before this date. There will therefore be sufficient depot servicing facilities in time for the introduction of these first trains by this date.

There will be a point in the production cycle for the new fleet of trains when the second new depot will be required. Our plans assume that the second depot will be operational before this production cycle milestone is realised.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether *(a)* a local authority and *(b)* other organisations have powers to block the development of additional train maintenance depots for the new Thameslink rolling stock. [R] [325781]

Chris Mole: Network Rail has commenced the process for progressing planning consents for the two new train maintenance depots for the new Thameslink rolling stock with the relevant local authorities.

It would be inappropriate to comment on the outcome of these discussions at this stage.

Transport: Sustainable Development

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many representations he has received in response to the draft guidance to regions on his Department's Delivering a Sustainable Transport System programme. [325444]

Mr. Khan: A number of responses to the consultation on Delivering a Sustainable Transport System in spring 2009 referred to the draft guidance to regions, including two specifically relating to the guidance. The Department for Transport published a response to the consultation on 28 April 2009 at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/archive/2009/planning/consultresponses/

The final guidance issued to the regions last July may be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/strategy/dasts/guidance/

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of progress in his Department's Delivering a Sustainable Transport System programme; and if he will make a statement. [325445]

Mr. Khan: Details of the regional study programme for Delivering a Sustainable Transport System are on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/strategy/dasts/

and details on the national studies are at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/nationalnetworksstudy?view=Standard

The Department is monitoring progress closely through representation on all study steering groups. It is anticipated that a full interim assessment of the work to date will be reported to Ministers in the summer of 2010.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* Shropshire council and *(b)* Advantage West Midlands on his Department's review, "Delivering a Sustainable Transport System". [325490]

Mr. Khan: I meet the chair of Advantage West Midlands (AWM) from time to time to discuss "Delivering a Sustainable Transport System" and other matters.

Officials from my Department and from Government offices also meet regularly with representatives of both AWM and Shropshire council.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she is taking to ensure that Birmingham obtains a legacy from the London 2012 Olympics. [325284]

Tessa Jowell: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) have established the Nations and Regions Group to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy for London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to maximise the sporting, economic, and cultural benefits of the 2012 games. Some examples of how Birmingham and the West Midlands region are benefiting from the games are given as follows.

Both the American and Jamaican track and field teams will be based in Birmingham in the run-up to the games.

West Midlands businesses are already benefiting from the games. To date, 213 businesses in the region have won contracts through CompeteFor. To date 53 businesses have won direct contracts with the Olympic Delivery Authority. This includes a contract for the construction of the Olympic Park's primary sewer and pumping station, and for the manufacture and installation of the security fence and gates around the park.

The region has been awarded 20 Inspire Marks, the non-commercial brand for programmes inspired by the games. So far, the West Midlands region has also had over 1,046 schools register on 'Get Set', LOCOG's domestic education programme for London 2012.

Over £6 million worth of funding has been secured to support an extensive programme of events and cultural activity across the West Midlands region in the run-up to 2012 including £2.2 million from the Legacy Trust to fund programmes to bring people together for community activities of all kinds.

Olympic Games 2012: Tickets

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether ballot arrangements for tickets for events in the London 2012 Olympics will prioritise allocations to *(a)* UK taxpayers and *(b)* UK residents; what obligations there are upon the organisers in respect of EU citizens and ballot arrangements; by what mechanism priority in ticket allocation will be given to those who have provided funding for the Games; and if she will make a statement. [324992]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Ltd. (LOCOG) is responsible for ticketing for the London 2012 games. LOCOG's ticketing plan will ensure that it raises the funds to stage the games and that it provides affordable and accessible tickets to deliver full venues.

Under EU competition law, LOCOG must ensure that all EU citizens, including UK residents, are given fair and equitable opportunities to purchase London 2012 tickets.

LOCOG has committed to making 75 per cent. of London 2012 tickets available via a public ballot process. The ballot will be open to all residents of the EU but LOCOG's promotional work around ticketing will be focused on the UK. LOCOG has already launched 'Sign-Up' encouraging all UK residents to register their details to receive information on ticket opportunities in advance of tickets going on sale in 2011. I hope all Members of the House will encourage their constituents to sign up to receive this information and to enter the ballot in 2011.

PRIME MINISTER

Trade Unions

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister which staff in Downing Street work on policy relating to trade unions. [324542]

The Prime Minister: The staff in my Office work on a wide range of policies with a range of institutions.

YouTube

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1897W, on the Internet, for what reason the decision was taken to disable the function on the YouTube channel to allow comments; and if he will amend the functionality to allow the public to post comments on its YouTube channel. [324200]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1897W.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 644W, on departmental communications, if she will place in the Library a copy of each document provided by APCO Worldwide to the Equality and Human Rights Commission on its campaign programme and awareness campaign. [324300]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is independent and manages its own affairs; the following is based on information it has provided.

APCO Worldwide produced a campaign book for the EHRC. A copy of this document has been placed in the Library as requested.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Hotels

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1008W, on hotels, for what dates each of the five-star hotels were booked; and the name of each of the senior officials in whose name the bookings were made. [319746]

Maria Eagle: The dates of stays in five-star hotels are shown as follows.

Date of stay	*Number of nights*
8 July 2008	1
6 October 2008	1
6 October 2008	1
8 October 2008	1
30 April 2008	2
19 January 2009	1
16 July 2008	1
17 June 2008	2
16 February 2009	1
16 February 2009	2
16 February 2009	1
16 February 2009	1
16 February 2009	1

The names of the staff are confidential but the grades of the staff staying and number of bookings were as follows:

	Number of bookings
Group Director	1
Director	5
Level 5	3
Level 4	2
Level 3	1
Level 2	1
Level 1 (support worker)	1
Investigating Commissioner	1

Rape: Criminal Proceedings

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government Equalities Office plans to take in response to the recommendations made in the Stern Review of how rape complaints are handled by public authorities in England and Wales. [324089]

Maria Eagle: The Government welcome Baroness Stern's report and have recently published an interim response to her recommendations. Her report poses a number of challenges, as well as 23 recommendations, which need to be carefully considered before a fuller response is issued later this year.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members' Staff: Pensions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Leader of the House what the total monetary value of employer contributions towards the pensions of staff of hon. Members was in the most recent financial year. [325721]

Barbara Keeley: The total pension contributions paid by the House in the 2009-10 financial year to the Portcullis Pension Plan for staff of Members was £5.49 million.

In addition, pension contributions totalling £254,453 were paid by the House to individual pension arrangements for staff of Members.

Public Duty Costs Allowance

John Mason: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how much in public duty costs allowance has been paid to former Prime Ministers in each year since 1991; [311222]

(2) what the limit is of the public duty costs allowance for former Prime Ministers; and when that limit will next be reviewed; [311223]

(3) what rules apply to claims made by former Prime Ministers from the public duty costs allowance; [311224]

(4) which office administers the public duty costs allowance for former Prime Ministers; and what checks are made to ensure that claims against the allowance meet the criteria for funding from the allowance; [311225]

(5) what guidance is provided to former Prime Ministers on claiming from the public duty costs allowance; and if she will place a copy of that guidance in the Library. [311226]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply.

The public duties cost allowance, which is administered by the Cabinet Office, is paid in respect of office and secretarial expenses incurred by former Prime Ministers in connection with their public duties. All claims must be supported by documentary evidence. The allowance is not payable if the former Prime Minister is occupying the position of Leader of the Opposition. The allowance is linked to the ceiling of the centralised arrangements for payment of staff and secretarial support for MPs with London constituencies.

Information on payments before the 1997-98 financial year is obtainable only at disproportionate cost. The total amount reimbursed each year, on a cash basis, on the public duties costs allowance is:

	Maximum allowance which can be claimed by each former Prime Minister (£)	*Total claimed by former Prime Ministers (£)*
1997-98	47,568	171,827
1998-99	49,232	175,402
1999-2000	50,264	171,984
2000-01	51,572	167,955
2001-02	52,760	186,922
2002-03	72,310	278,615
2003-04	74,985	235,809
2004-05	77,534	274,794
2005-06	84,081	294,546
2006-07	87,276	244,638
2007-08	90,505	174,551
2008-09	100,205	190,888

NORTHERN IRELAND

Administration of Justice

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what review mechanisms have been put in place for future spending on the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland following the recent criminal justice inspection report. [325028]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office already has processes to review expenditure on consultants across the Department and its arm's length bodies.

The use of external consultants and professional services is reported in the annual departmental report which is laid in Parliament.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324971]

Paul Goggins: Voltage optimisers or equivalent technologies are not used within buildings occupied by the Department.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on antique furniture in each of the last five years; and what items were purchased. [325114]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arm's length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, has incurred no expenditure on antique furniture in the last five years.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which ICT projects initiated by his Department were cancelled before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred on each of those projects; who the contractors were of each of those projects; what the date of *(a)* commencement and *(b)* cancellation was of each of those projects; and if he will make a statement. [325472]

Paul Goggins: There has been one ICT project cancelled by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) before completion since 1997. The Product Logging ICT Project was cancelled by the Forensic Science Agency at a cost of £8,500. The contractors were ICS Computing. The project commenced in June 2006 and was abandoned in November 2006.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in real terms. [324799]

Paul Goggins: The total cost to the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) of employing press officers during 2008-09 was £579,343. No figures are available for the 1996-97 financial year.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325192]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has received no complaints regarding difficulties using the website.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325210]

Paul Goggins: A review of my Department's website was conducted during the 2006-07 financial year to optimise the site and improve performance and download speeds. This review cost £15,677.

Inquiries

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) which legal firms have worked *(a)* for and *(b)* with the Historical Enquiries Team; and how many hours of work each such legal firm had undertaken on the latest date for which figures are available; [325475]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the final cost to the public purse of the Historical Enquiries Team; [325477]

(3) when he expects the Historical Enquiries Team to have completed its work; [325479]

(4) how much the Historical Enquiries Team had spent on legal fees on the latest date for which figures are available; [325480]

(5) how many people the Historical Enquiries Team has employed in each type of post in each month since its inception; [325481]

(6) how many cases the Historical Enquiries Team has closed; [325483]

(7) what mechanisms the Historical Enquiries Team uses to measure its effectiveness; [325484]

(8) in respect of how many cases which the Historical Enquiries Team has declared closed, families of those whose deaths were under investigation have subsequently requested more information; [325485]

(9) how many and what proportion of cases within its remit the Historical Enquiries Team has examined since its inception; [325486]

(10) how much the Historical Enquiries Team has spent on security *(a)* for legal companies, *(b)* for witnesses and *(c)* in total since its inception; [325487]

(11) how much the Historical Enquiries Team has spent on *(a)* accommodation and *(b)* advertising since its inception; [325488]

(12) how many cases the Historical Enquiries Team has completed to the satisfaction of the families of those whose deaths were under investigation; [325489]

(13) how much the Historical Enquiries Team has spent on IT since its inception; [325520]

(14) how much the Historical Enquiries Team has spent on IT consultants since its inception; [325521]

(15) what the budget is of the press office for the Historical Enquiries Team in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [325522]

(16) what the cost to the public purse had been of the Historical Enquiries Team on the latest date for which figures are available. [325478]

Paul Goggins: The Historical Enquiries Team is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and copies of his letters will be placed in the Library of the House.

Prisons: Mental Health Services

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on mental health services for prisoners in each *(a)* prison and *(b)* health authority area in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and how many prisoners received such treatment in each such year. [325426]

Paul Goggins: Matters relating to all aspects of prisoners' health care in Northern Ireland are the responsibility of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, which falls within the remit of the devolved Northern Ireland Administration.

JUSTICE

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many new criminal offences relating to the purchase, production, sale or misuse of alcohol have been enacted in each year since 1998. [321162]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The following Acts, which received Royal Assent between 1 May 1997 and 1 January 2010 and for which the Home Secretary has policy responsibility and contained references to the purchase, production, sale or misuse of alcohol are listed as follows:

Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997

Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001

Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006

Policing and Crime Act 2009

A total of nine new offences relating to the purchase, production, sale or misuse of alcohol are included within the Acts above. The new offences are listed as follows:

Persistent possession of alcohol in a public place (s30 of Policing and Crime Act 2009)

DPPO—refusal to comply with request (s12(4) of Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001)

Closure Orders (s25(3) of Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001)

Closure Orders (s25(4) of Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001)

Closure Orders (s25(5) of Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001)

Closure Orders (s26(1) of Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001)

Confiscation Act (s1(3) of Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997)

Breach of a Drinking Banning Order (s11(1) of Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006)

Directions to leave—failure to comply with direction (s27(6) of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006)

Cemeteries

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on *(a)* communal graves and *(b)* burial arrangements for paupers. [325321]

Bridget Prentice: Our current guidance reminds burial ground managers not to discriminate in the way common graves are provided in cemeteries and encourages them to be treated with as much sensitivity and respect as any other graves.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what *(a)* the cost and *(b)* purpose was of each. [324659]

Mr. Straw: The provision and offering of hospitality is governed by the Department's internal hospitality policy, which is consistent with the principles of Managing Public Money and the HM Treasury handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_governance_valueformoney.htm

The guiding principle of the Department's internal policy is that gifts and hospitality must only be provided or accepted in exceptional circumstances where they:

are appropriate to the circumstances; and

are modest and appropriate

For example:

token items such as promotional pens; or

routine hospitality such as coffee and biscuits; or

a light working lunch where there are external attendees, meetings are lengthy or internal attendees have travelled long distances.

Attendance at, and hosting of, hospitality events by Department and agency staff is recorded in local hospitality registers, in accordance with Ministry of Justice policy. These data are not collated centrally, and gathering information from local registers (including operational establishments) would be possible only at disproportionate cost.

Therefore, a list of the five most expensive events during the last three years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, at the start of the legal year the Lord Chancellor hosts a breakfast after a service at Westminster Abbey. This event is attended by senior judiciary from the UK and overseas and this event is likely to be one of the higher value events hosted by the Ministry of Justice. The expenditure for the past three years is as follows:

Accounting year	£
2009-10	29,953
2008-09	50,391
2007-08	29,952

In 2008-09 there was a switch from the House of Lords Refreshments Department to the House of Commons Catering and Retail Services. The usual function rooms and catering services were not available and consequently the costs of staging the event were higher. The choice of menu/catering has since been reviewed and economies made, enabling a reduction in costs for 2009-10.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 833W, on legal costs, how many employees have instigated legal proceedings against his Department in cases concerning remuneration in each month of the last three years. [325258]

Mr. Wills: Details of the number of employees instigating legal proceedings against the Ministry of Justice (excluding NOMS) are contained in the following table.

	Number
2007-08	
May	0
June	0
July	0
August	0
September	1
October	3
November	0
December	2
January	1
February	[1]57
March	1
2008-09	
April	2
May	1
June	0
July	0
August	0
September	0
October	0
November	0
December	1
January	2
February	0
March	0
2009-10	
April	1
May	0
June	0
July	1
August	1
September	2
October	1
November	[2]34
December	0
January	1

[1] Including one Employment Tribunal claim with 54 claimants.
[2] Including one Employment Tribunal claim with 34 claimants.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is an agency of the Ministry of Justice. It has not been possible to obtain information covering NOMS in answer to this question without incurring disproportionate cost.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 833W, on legal costs, in how many cases concerning remuneration of employees the final ruling was *(a)* in favour of and *(b)* against his Department in each month of the last three years. [325259]

Mr. Wills: In the core Ministry of Justice (excluding NOMS) none of the cases whose legal costs or compensation values reported in my answer of 16 March were subject to a final ruling.

All cases were either withdrawn by the claimants or where applicable, settlement was agreed by the Ministry in advance of a ruling.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is an Agency of the Ministry of Justice. It has not been possible to obtain information covering NOMS in answer to this question without incurring disproportionate cost.

Magistrates: Age

Jacqui Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are taken to ensure that appointments of magistrates avoid discrimination on grounds of age. [325386]

Mr. Straw: The Lord Chancellor appoints magistrates with the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice. They are recruited and selected by 101 local advisory committees. The following steps are designed to avoid all forms of discrimination in that process:

appointment is strictly on merit; eligible candidates are assessed solely against the key qualities required of all magistrates, irrespective of factors such as age

all advisory committee members undertake mandatory training on how to avoid bias or discrimination during the selection process

the selection process has been reviewed by my Department's legal advisers to ensure compliance with applicable anti-discrimination legislation.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has undertaken costings of the policies of the *(a)* Conservative party and *(b)* Liberal Democrat party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months. [324251]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to answer given by my hon. Friend, the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry) on 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1044W.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 26 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 795W, on political parties: finance, what response he made to Sir Hayden Phillips' request on release of the minutes and background papers. [324408]

Mr. Straw: My response to Sir Hayden Phillips consented to the release of the minutes and background papers from the inter-party talks on party funding.

Prisoners: Mobile Phones

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prosecutions there have been for offences relating to pornographic or violent images discovered on telephones seized from inmates in prisons in England and Wales in the last 12 months; [324863]

(2) whether his Department has evidence of the transfer of violent or pornographic images from telephone to telephone by inmates in prisons in England and Wales. [324864]

Maria Eagle: The court proceedings database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. The court proceedings database does not hold specific information on offences beyond descriptions provided by the statutes under which prosecutions are brought. Information available centrally on defendants proceeded against does not identify if the defendant is a prisoner. While data are extracted from mobile phones by a central unit, action taken as a result of that data is a matter for individual establishments and their partners. This is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

David Blakey's report and the Government response were published on 7 July 2008. The report emphasised the difficulties inherent in reducing contraband supply in prisons, and highlighted the link between drug supply and mobile phone availability in prisons.

Good progress has been made in implementing Blakey's recommendations and the Government are committed to reducing the number of mobile phones in prisons and addressing the risks that mobile phones present both to prison security and to the safety of the public. We have implemented a strategy to minimise the number of mobile phones entering prisons, to find phones that do get in and to disrupt mobile phones that cannot be found.

As part of this we have already strengthened the law through the Offender Management Act 2007, which made it an offence with a penalty of up to two years' imprisonment to bring a mobile phone or component into a prison. We are also taking forward legislation to criminalise the possession of devices including mobile telephones within a prison without authorisation.

Due to the covert nature of mobile phone use in prisons, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is not able to estimate the number of mobile phones or component parts in circulation. NOMS is also unable to assess their usage.

Prisons in England and Wales are instructed to send mobile phones and SIM cards found to a central unit and the data extracted from these mobile phones are then shared with establishments so that appropriate action can be taken locally. A record of these local actions is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Organised Crime

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted of offences relating to involvement in organised crime were in prison when charged with those offences in each of the last three years. [325661]

Maria Eagle: The data requested are not held.

There is no list of offences that relate to involvement in organised crime. Therefore, to provide these data would require an investigation into each individual conviction where the offender was in prison custody

when charged, and in many cases a subjective assessment as to whether the offence related to serious organised crime. This would incur disproportionate cost.

The National Offender Management Service is also fully engaged in action to address serious and organised crime strategically, including the work identified in the Government report "Extending Our Reach: A Comprehensive Approach to Tackling Serious Organised Crime" to develop a strategy to manage serious organised criminals while in prison.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate the Prison Service has made of the incidence of organised crime carried out by serving prisoners over the last three years. [325663]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1086W.

Covert criminal activity is, of its nature, very difficult to quantify. Prisons have a well established security information reporting framework. Where concerns are identified about a prisoner's potential criminal activity, prisons can draw on a range of measures to identify and disrupt that activity.

The National Offender Management Service is also fully engaged in action to address serious and organised crime strategically, including the work identified in the Government report "Extending Our Reach: A Comprehensive Approach to Tackling Serious Organised Crime" to develop a strategy to manage serious organised criminals while in prison.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were charged with a serious crime carried out while they were in prison in 2008-09. [325664]

Maria Eagle: While the number of serious offences, as defined by schedule 1 to the Serious Crime Act 2007, are recorded, data as to whether the offender was imprisoned at the time of charge are not held. To provide the data would require an investigation into each such offence, which would incur disproportionate cost.

The National Offender Management Service is also fully engaged in action to address serious and organised crime strategically, including the work identified in the Government report "Extending Our Reach: A Comprehensive Approach to Tackling Serious Organised Crime" to develop a strategy to manage serious organised criminals whilst in prison.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for offences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 in each year since 2006. [325344]

Claire Ward: The requested information is shown in the following tables:

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected offences, England and Wales, 2006 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

			2006			2007		
	Statute	*Offence description*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced*
10822	Badgers Act 1973 as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1991, s.26 and Badgers Act 1991, s.1	Offences of cruelty to badgers and special protection for badgers and their setts.	10	3	3	20	6	6
11120	Badgers (further protection) Act 1991	Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified.	12	4	4	10	5	5

			2008[3]		
	Statute	*Offence description*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced*
10822	Badgers Act 1973 as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1991, s.26 and Badgers Act 1991, s.1	Offences of cruelty to badgers and special protection for badgers and their setts.	22	11	11
11120	Badgers (further protection) Act 1991	Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified.	14	11	11

[1] The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice.

Trade Unions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 383-84W, on trade unions, if he will place in the Library a copy of the secondment agreement between his Department and the PCS trade union. [322745]

Mr. Straw: Agreements are not generic documents, but are specific to the individual on secondment. We currently have two employees on secondment to PCS, and copies of their agreements will be placed in the Library.

Tribunals: Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeal tribunals relating to disability living allowance took place in each of the smallest administrative areas for which figures are available in each of the last five years. [324599]

Bridget Prentice: The Tribunals Service is only able to provide figures for each administrative area from 2007-08. Prior to this, disability living allowance appeals were administered by the Appeals Service, an agency of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The DWP is unable to break down its figures in the way the hon. Member has requested.

The First-tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support has seven administrative centres across the country. The following information is the most comprehensive that the Tribunals Service Management Information system can provide.

Disability living allowance: clearances at hearing by centre

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (up to 28 February 2010)[1]
Birmingham (East and West Midlands and East of England Government Office Regions) and (London Government[2] Office Region)	*	*	6,445	8,846	9,054
Cardiff (Wales) and South West Government Office Region	*	*	7,931	7,285	7,269
Glasgow (Scotland)	*	*	9,601	8,220	6,803
Leeds (Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region)	*	*	5,095	5,382	4,330
North West (North West Government Office Region)	*	*	8,034	8,563	8,090
Newcastle (North East Government Office Region)	*	*	3,535	3,452	3,228
Nottingham[3]	*	*	12,847	8,824	5,021
Sutton[4] (South East and London[2] Government Office Regions)	*	*	4,342	3,308	4,282
Total	71,125	65,088	57,830	53,880	48,077

"*" = Figures for April 2006 to March 2007 are unavailable.

[1] Figures provided for April 2009 to February 2010 are provisional and subject to further change.

[2] Covers whole of Government Office Region London except Hillingdon, Harrow, Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, Islington, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge, Waltham Forest and Hackney which are covered by Birmingham.

[3] The Nottingham office transferred its caseload which covered the East Midlands, East of England and part of the London region (see 2 above) to the Birmingham office on 18 December 2009.

[4] Prior to 29 June 2009, part of Sutton's caseload was administered by the Nottingham office and is included in the Nottingham figures up until that date.

Notes:

1. Figures provided for financial years April 2007 to February 2010 were extracted from GAPS 2 (Generic Appeals Processing System) Statistical Summary Reports dated 25 March 2010.
2. Figures prior to April 2007 supplied by DWP. From April 2006 there was a transitional period when DWP recorded data on more than one computer system (GAPS 1 and GAPS 2). Some information was not updated on the system and as a result a breakdown by area is not available.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases were processed by the Child Support Agency in each of the last 10 years. [324690]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases were dealt with by the Child Support Agency in each of the last 10 years. [324690]

The number of live and assessed cases being handled in each of the last 10 years is provided in the table below. This includes old scheme cases with a full or interim maintenance assessment as well as current scheme cases with a full maintenance calculation or default maintenance decision. Figures include cases processed off the system from 2008. Information on these cases prior to this date is not included as this information can not be broken down into those live or assessed.

Table 1: Caseload by scheme: live and assessed cases

Period as at:	Old scheme	Current scheme	Overall agency
November 2000	1,044,500	—	1,044,500
November 2001	1,054,800	—	1,054,800
November 2002	1,079,500	—	1,079,500
December 2003	935,400	65,200	1,000,700
December 2004	868,300	169,600	1,037,900
December 2005	816,400	293,700	1,110,100

Table 1: Caseload by scheme: live and assessed cases

Period as at:	Old scheme	Current scheme	Overall agency
December 2006	747,600	418,700	1,166,300
December 2007	669,700	556,700	1,226,400
December 2008	607,300	656,200	1,263,500
December 2009	521,900	691,200	1,213,100

Notes:
1. Figures from December 2008 accurately reflect the performance of cases processed off the system. Prior to 2008, the clerical caseload cannot be broken down to show the number of live and assessed cases.
2. Figures include old Scheme cases with a full or interim maintenance assessment as well as current Scheme cases with a full maintenance calculation or default maintenance decision.
3. From 2003, changes were made to the quarterly periods in which figures were recorded.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many enquiries made to the Child Support Agency (CSA) were responded to *(a)* over the telephone and *(b)* in writing in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the policy is of the CSA on responding to requests that details of a telephone conversation be confirmed in writing. [325397]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to the right hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many enquiries made to the Child Support Agency (CSA) were responded to (a) over the telephone and (b) in writing in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the policy is of the CSA on responding to requests that details of a telephone conversation be confirmed in writing. [325397]

Information on how the Child Support Agency (CSA) responded to enquires made by (a) over the telephone and, (b) in writing is not available as the purpose of calls and correspondence is not recorded for management information purposes. There is no specific policy on how the CSA handle requests for written confirmation of a conversation. Management encourage employees to use the telephone when contacting clients as this is the fastest and most effective means of communication, however we will provide written confirmation to clients where there is a valid need.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Council Tax Benefits

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* representations she has received from and *(b)* discussions she has had with (i) the Royal British Legion, (ii) other third sector organisations and (iii) other interested parties on the renaming of council tax benefit as council tax rebate. [325458]

Helen Goodman: During the passage of the Welfare Reform Bill the Royal British Legion met with Ministers and officials a number of times to discuss the merits of the case for changing the name of council tax benefit and, subsequently, on how to take forward the change of name to council tax rebate. The Department has continued to receive some correspondence from interested parties concerning the name change.

Departmental Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account her Department's food procurement policy takes of animal welfare. [325523]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does not procure food directly, but has a contract for the provision of fully serviced accommodation which includes catering. The contract is with Telereal Trillium and its catering services supplier is Eurest (part of the Compass Group UK and Ireland). Since 2003, the Department has been working with these suppliers, actively pursuing a Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative action plan and one of the key objectives of this initiative is to raise farming standards.

Compass Group have confirmed that they endorse the Farm Animal Welfare Council's Five Freedoms concept and provide full traceability of products and suppliers within their approved supply chain to ensure animals reared for meat, fish, milk and eggs are raised to high standards of animal welfare.

Compass Group have also confirmed a long-standing commitment to source their seafood as sustainably as possible. They were the first foodservice company to achieve the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Chain of Custody certification enabling them to serve certified sustainable, MSC-labelled seafood choices. Within the DWP contract many of their sites are buying products to these standards and promotional activities are run to encourage DWP staff to purchase the more ethically sourced products.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1023W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign. [321921]

Jim Knight: The cost of the DWP Corporate website redesign was £216,000. The website was redesigned as part of our response to Sir David Varney's transformational government recommendations that customer-facing content should move to Directgov and employer-facing content to Business Link. We therefore redesigned the corporate site for its refined corporate audience and removed all customer-facing content, while at the same time implementing new Cabinet Office guidelines for Government websites.

Employment Schemes: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Birmingham have received *(a)* the in-work credit, *(b)* the return to work credit and *(c)* pathways to work since that scheme was introduced. [325241]

Helen Goodman: 1,480 lone parents in the Birmingham local authority area have received in-work credit since it became available there in April 2008.

15,190 individuals received provider-led pathways to work support in the Birmingham local authority area up to the end of July 2009.

1,120 individuals received the return to work credit in the Birmingham local authority area up to the end of October 2009.

Employment Schemes: Voluntary Organisations

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the likely effects on the voluntary sector of the decision to reduce the number of prime contractors under the Work Choice Programme. [325464]

Jonathan Shaw: Smaller, specialist organisations including those from the faith-based, voluntary and third sector already play an important role in delivering support to our customers. For example, as of 1 March 2010, 29 per cent. of the Department's Welfare to Work contracts were with providers from the third sector, compared to 38 per cent. from the private sector and 33 per cent. from the public sector.

As we move to longer, larger contracts with prime contractors, it is important that we do all we can to ensure that organisations from the voluntary and third sector are engaged and made aware of the opportunities to work as sub-contractors/partners with the prime contractors. Prime contractors will be expected to ensure that DWP provision is joined up with local partnership arrangements, working with smaller, specialist providers, many of whom will be third sector or voluntary organisations dealing with disadvantaged groups in the local area.

Specifically, as part of the procurement of the Work Choice, programme, DWP established a database to facilitate the networking between prospective prime contractors and delivery partners. This was published on the DWP website; updated on an ongoing basis and included the contact details of all organisations who agreed to have these details published. Additionally, two events took place in September 2009, to further facilitate networking between potential prime providers and those organisations seeking to deliver at sub-contractor level. Nearly 600 people attended these events.

DWP are taking every public and private opportunity to stress to potential prime providers that they are taking a keen interest in observing how organisations are taking forward their partnering strategies and the care with which they are engaging with third sector organisations.

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs in each employment sector *(a)* were originally expected to be created by Future Jobs Fund funding and *(b)* are expected to be created as a result of successful bids for such funding. [324516]

Jim Knight: The Future Jobs Fund does not include targets for the creation of jobs in specific sectors. The Future Jobs Fund is a challenge fund and we are therefore unable to provide any detail about the volumes of jobs that might be created in each sector.

The Department and HMT agreed an aspiration of creating 10,000 'green jobs' through the Future Jobs Fund. This includes jobs in environmental sectors, renewable energy technologies, and emerging low-carbon sectors.

Of the 117,000 Future Jobs Fund jobs we've agreed to fund to date, around 17,000 have been green jobs.

Incapacity Benefit

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time of incapacity benefit applications was in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each quarter of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [321456]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the average processing time of incapacity benefit applications was in (a) the UK and (b) each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each quarter of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The average actual clearance time (AACT) is calculated from our benefit processing system and is a result of taking all the claim volumes processed within any given month against the total number of days each claim has taken to process. The system conducts a simple division calculation using these data sets to provide us with the AACT.

The two dates used to calculate the AACT for incapacity benefit were from the date a properly complete claim form is received by Jobcentre Plus to the date a decision is made.

I have provided the AACT data for the last five years and current performance to January 2010. For 2005/06 the data is displayed by district level and from 2006/07 onwards the data has been gathered by Benefit Delivery Centre. This is the lowest geographical area we can provide. For national level performance we have provided in month performance from April 2005 to January 2010. I have arranged to have this information placed in the House of Commons Library.

We do not record the requested data quarterly as the data is not collated in this way. However, we have provided information in monthly and yearly tables.

I hope this information is helpful.

National Insurance: Gurkhas

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many National Insurance numbers her Department has issued to Gurkha veterans settling in the United Kingdom since August 2009; [325688]

(2) how long on average it has taken to issue a National Insurance number to a Gurkha veteran settling in the United Kingdom since August 2009. [325689]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

New Deal for Young People

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* early and *(b)* normal entrants to the new deal for young people left in order to take up employment in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [318469]

Jim Knight: The jobseeker support regime delivered by Jobcentre Plus has been very successful and the new deal programmes have helped some 2.25 million people into work since they were introduced in 1998. This includes 915,650 jobseekers who have been helped into work by the new deal for young people.

None the less, the labour market has changed significantly over the last decade and the programme needs to evolve to ensure it is ready for the challenges of the next 10 years. This is why we are introducing the refreshed jobseekers regime and the flexible new deal which will offer a four-stage programme of support, with increasing levels of customer responsibility at each stage.

The introduction of the flexible new deal will support the Government's aim of helping more people secure sustained employment through tailored, flexible help and support, particularly for people who experience repeated cycles of unemployment.

Implementation of the new jobseekers regime and the flexible new deal began in April 2009 as part of a phased approach across the country. This programme will be available to jobseekers in most areas of the country by October 2010.

The recording of destinations of new deal participants in 2009 has been affected by the transition to the refreshed jobseeker's allowance and flexible new deal.

The information requested is shown in the following tables:

Leavers from the new deal for young people (early entrants)

Destinations from 2004 up to August 2009 (latest data available)

Calendar year	Number to employment	Proportion of entrants (percentage)
2004	17,980	45.6
2005	13,690	40.3
2006	11,140	36.9
2007	12,630	33.8
2008	11,110	34.1
2009[1]	7,680	24.8

Leavers from the new deal for young people (other than early entrants)

Destinations from 2004 up to August 2009 (latest data available)—number

Calendar year	Number to employment	Proportion of entrants (percentage)
2004	53,730	40.8
2005	43,830	36.7
2006	51,560	35.4
2007	57,490	35.8
2008	41,920	33.1
2009[1]	33,360	24.8

[1] The 2009 figures are to August 2009 only, the last month for which figures are available.

Notes:

1. Definitions and conventions: Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Percentages are rounded to one decimal point.
2. Those not recorded as leaving the new deal programmes to take up employment include those leaving to benefits, people who have gone abroad, people who have taken up jobs without notifying the jobcentre, or those who have left and not notified Jobcentre Plus of their destination.
3. The employment category includes leavers for whom information indicated that they had both a job start and a new benefit claim within two weeks of leaving new deal.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

New Deal Schemes: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding in total has been received under new deal programmes for *(a)* young people, *(b)* 25+, *(c)* 50+, *(d)* lone parents, *(e)* partners and *(f)* disabled people in Birmingham; and how many people in Birmingham have received assistance from each such scheme. [321575]

Jim Knight: The most recent data can be found in the following table.

Programme funding and new deal starters in Birmingham and Solihull district

Programme	2008-09 Outturn (£ million)	2008-09 Starts
New deal for young people	5.004	7,150
New deal for 25 plus	1.866	2,200
New deal for lone parents	1.590	5,400
New deal for partners	—	0
New deal for disabled people	—	0
Total	8.461	14,800

Notes

1. Figures may not sum due to rounding
2. The figures only reflect provision costs and spend on in work training grants there is no estimation of the costs of Jobcentre Plus adviser time which is substantial for some programmes.
3. New deal for young people and new deal for 25 plus figures for funding include new deal for the self employed and new deal for musicians.
4. New deal for 50 plus spend and starts are incorporated in the new deal for 25 plus figures.
5. Funding for the new deal for disabled people is not available below national level. This figure is published in the Departmental Report 2009, which is available in the Library.
6. Because of the small numbers involved, we do not have reliable data for the starts and spend for the new deal for partners in this district. National data are published in the Departmental Report 2009, which is available in the Library.
7. Starts figures are rounded to the nearest 50.
8. Latest data on starters are from the introduction of the new deal programmes to August 2009.
9. New deal for disabled people starters (individuals) data are not available; Job Broker Registrations (individuals) has been used instead.
10. Spells (period of time spent on the programme) are not available for new deal for 50 plus and new deal for partners so individual level data are used instead. Spells data are used for new deal for young people, new deal for 25 plus and new deal for lone parents.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

The jobseeker support regime delivered by Jobcentre Plus has been very successful and the new deal programme has helped more than 2.25 million people into work since it was introduced in 1998.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people are in receipt of the *(a)* (i) care and (ii) mobility component of disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance in the (A) south-west and (B) UK. [325466]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is in the tables.

Disability living allowance: cases in payment—care award type by south-west Government office region

	Higher rate	Middle rate	Lower rate	Nil rate	Total
GB caseloads	710,110	1,021,440	859,510	502,050	3,093,090
GB proportions (percentage)	1.2	1.7	1.4	0.8	5.2
South-west caseloads	45,970	81,290	66,250	37,070	230,580
South-west proportions (percentage)	0.9	1.6	1.3	0.7	4.4

Disability living allowance: cases in payment—mobility award type by south-west Government office region

	Higher rate	Lower rate	Nil rate	Total
GB caseloads	1,763,930	923,250	405,910	3,093,090
GB proportions (percentage)	3.0	1.5	0.7	5.2
South-west caseloads	124,510	71,030	35,040	230,580
South-west proportions (percentage)	2.4	1.4	0.7	4.4

Attendance allowance: cases in payment—care award type in south-west Government office region

	Higher rate	Lower rate	Total
GB caseloads	896,750	708,380	1,605,120
GB proportions (percentage)	1.5	1.2	2.7
South-west caseloads	72,570	92,600	165,170
South-west proportions (percentage)	1.4	1.8	3.2

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. "—" = Nil or negligible, n/a = Not applicable.
2. Cases in payment show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Recipients of disability living allowance can be in receipt of both the care and mobility component.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the population in St. Ives constituency are in receipt of each level of *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* the (i) care and (ii) mobility component of disability living allowance. [325470]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is in the tables.

Disability living allowance: cases in payment by care award—August 2009

Care award type	Higher rate	Middle rate	Lower rate	Nil rate	Total
St. Ives—caseloads	1,230	1,910	1,740	920	5,790
St. Ives—percentage of population	1.2	1.9	1.7	0.9	5.8

Disability living allowance: cases in payment by mobility award—August 2009

Mobility award type	Higher rate	Lower rate	Nil rate	Total
St. Ives—caseloads	3,410	1,570	810	5,790
St. Ives—percentage of population	3.4	1.6	0.8	5.8

Attendance allowance: cases in payment by attendance allowance award type—August 2009

Attendance allowance award type	Higher Rate	Lower Rate	Total
St. Ives—caseloads	1,650	2,030	3,690
St. Ives—percentage of population	1.7	2.0	3.7

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Cases in payment show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Recipients of disability living allowance can be in receipt of both the care and mobility component.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of recipients of the state second pension whose entitlement includes years past 2002 when they were in receipt of incapacity benefit; how much extra state second pension is paid per week per recipient in respect of such years; and what estimate she has made of the expenditure on such accrued rights in 2009-10. [324417]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* State second pension expenditure in 2009-10 due to the accrual of rights via receipt of incapacity benefit is estimated at around £300 million in 2009-10 price terms.

We are unable to provide information relating to the number of people to whom this expenditure relates or the average amounts in payment as modelling of state second pension expenditure is performed on an aggregate basis and does not take account of individual entitlements.

In 2007-08, the latest period for which data are available, 900,000 women and 1,300,000 men of working age accrued rights to state second pension through receipt of incapacity benefit.

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10 million.

2. Forecasts of state second pension/state earnings related pension scheme are based on the Budget Report 2010 forecasts. Published expenditure tables can found at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/medium_term.asp

3. Figures for 2007-08 are provisional as they will be subject to change as further information about national insurance contributions becomes available.

Sources:

Strategy Directorate modelling and Lifetime Labour Market Database, 2007-08.

Unemployment

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 605, if she will estimate the savings in unemployment benefits and other benefits from unemployment being 650,000 lower in 2010 than the average predicted by independent forecasts; and if she will make a statement. [323436]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* Between the Budget 2009 and the Budget 2010, the expected level of UK unemployment was reduced. By the end of 2009, the actual UK unemployment claimant count was already nearly 500,000 less than expected at the Budget 2009.

Unemployment is now expected to be 700,000 lower in 2010 than in the Budget 2009. The savings in benefits across 2010-11 to 2014-15 compared with what was assumed at Budget 2009 is around £14 billion. This includes spend relating to housing benefit and council tax benefit as well as jobseeker's allowance.

Winter Fuel Payments

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to Budget 2010, HC 451, if she will estimate the saving to the Exchequer in each of the next five years of increasing the age of entitlement to winter fuel payments to 65 years. [325346]

Angela Eagle: Following a European Court of Justice Judgment in December 1999, the winter fuel payment scheme was extended to all those aged 60 and over.

The requested information is in the following table:

Savings (2009-10 price terms)

	£ million
2010-11	600
2011-12	420
2012-13	340
2013-14	270
2014-15	220

Notes:

1. Expenditure for GB only, rounded to the nearest £10 million.
2. The European Court of Justice ruled that, by not paying winter fuel payments to men aged 60 to 64, but paying eligible women from age 60, the scheme was discriminatory. The ruling was applied from the beginning of the scheme, the winter of 1997-98.
3. Savings are modelled using current policy of increasing age of entitlement to winter fuel payments to 65 by 2020, against a scenario if age entitlement to winter fuel payments was increased to 65 immediately in each of the next five financial years. Modelling assumes anyone 60-64 currently receiving winter fuel payment would no longer receive it.
4. A winter fuel payment of £250 per household is modelled for 2010-11. For subsequent years a winter fuel payment of £200 per household is modelled.
5. Savings are for each financial year and become smaller as the age of entitlement increases with current policy. The drop in savings from 2010-11 to 2011-12 is also due to the decrease in winter fuel payment amounts assumed.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which items of equipment procured since 2001 and made available to operations in Afghanistan were procured as part of his Department's core equipment programme. [322846]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The following table, which is based on centrally held records, lists the majority of equipment projects with a cost of £20 million or over that were procured from the core equipment programme since 2004 and made available to operations in Afghanistan. A number of equipment projects have not been included as their disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Details of equipment projects procured prior to 2004, and projects costing less than £20 million for the entire period covered by the question, are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Category	*Equipment*
Land Equipment	Battle Group Thermal Imaging
	Trojan
	Panther Command and Liaison Vehicle (CLV)[1]
	Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System
	Future Fire Control System
	Wheeled Tankers
	Pinzgauer 4x4 Truck Utility Medium Fitted For Radio
	Dismounted Counter Mine Capability—Vallon handheld mine detector
	Support Vehicle (SV)
	C Vehicle PFI—Crane Terex 35 Tonne
	C Vehicle PFI—Light Wheel Tractor All Arms JCB 3CX
	C Vehicle PFI—Light Wheeled Tractor JCB 4CX
	C Vehicle PFI—Medium Wheeled Tractor
	C Vehicle PFI—Bulldozer Cat D5N
	C Vehicle PFI—Heavy Well Drills
	C Vehicle PFI—Rough Terrain Forklift 2400 kg JCB
	C Vehicle PFI—Rough terrain Forklift 4000 kg JCB
	Operational Field Catering System (OFCS)
	Mobile Artillery Monitoring Battlefield Radar
Weapons	Light Forces Anti-Tank Guided Weapon
	Javelin Follow-On Buy
Air Support	C-17 (5th Aircraft)
	C-17 (6th aircraft)
Information Systems and Services	Bowman
	UIC/TSC503 Transportable SATCOM Terminals
Helicopters	Chinook Coherence

[1] The Panther CLV was procured through the core equipment programme but a number of the vehicles underwent a modification, funded as an urgent operational requirement, to enable them to operate in Afghanistan.

Other equipment projects are planned to be procured from the core equipment programme to be made available for operations in Afghanistan. These include land equipment, information systems and services and helicopter projects and the 7th C17. Many other equipment projects procured from the core equipment programme have delivered capability in support of other operations.

Mr. David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Operation Eagle's Summit in 2008 necessitated the redeployment of British forces from elsewhere in Helmand Province. [325239]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: While extensive support was provided by British forces to Operation Oqab Tsuka (Eagle's Summit), to move a turbine from Kandahar to Kajaki, it did not require the long-term redeployment of British troops from elsewhere in Helmand Province.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the Scout vehicles will carry out in Afghanistan; and what the cost of each such vehicle will be on deployment in theatre. [325452]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Scout vehicles will be the principal reconnaissance vehicles of the British Army and will replace Scimitar vehicles which are currently deployed in Afghanistan. The final numbers and costs will be determined at the manufacture investment decision point.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what main weapons systems Scout vehicles will have on deployment in Afghanistan; which companies are the *(a)* manufacturers and *(b)* suppliers of the ammunition for the vehicle's main weapons systems; what the cost is per round of ammunition; and what estimate he has made of the lifespan of the barrel of the main weapon system per number of rounds fired. [325453]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The intent is for the Scout vehicle's main weapon system to be the 40 mm Cased Telescoped Cannon provided by Cased Telescoped Ammunition International, a joint private venture between BAES and Nexter. On current plans, BAES will produce the ammunition for the cannon at their facilities in Glascoed, South Wales under the Department's Munitions Acquisition Supply Solution (MASS) contract. The cost of each round of ammunition will be determined during commercial negotiations before the MASS contract is amended to incorporate the 40 mm ammunition. The lifespan of the barrel will be established during the qualification programme for the cannon and ammunition. The qualification programme consists of an extensive series of tests and trials to ensure that the cannon and ammunition are safe, reliable and effective for use by the British Army.

Air Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to retain the Royal Air Force as a separate service after the next Strategic Defence Review. [325552]

Bill Rammell: Yes, it is my policy to retain the three services.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* contracts and *(b)* sub-contracts related to the construction of two aircraft carriers for the Royal Navy have been let; in which constituencies he expects work arising from such contracts and sub-contracts to take place; and if he will make a statement. [324990]

Mr. Quentin Davies: In July 2008, the MOD placed a contract with the Aircraft Carrier Alliance (ACA) for the manufacture of two Queen Elizabeth (QE) class aircraft carriers. Work on the QE class aircraft carriers is now under way in five UK shipyards—Appledore, Rosyth, Govan, Portsmouth and Tyne, with work due to start at the sixth and final yard, Birkenhead, in the next few months.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 437W. An updated list of sub-contracts will be placed in the Library of the House, which includes the constituencies where work will be carried out.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department has allocated for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder in soldiers returning from active duty to *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [325311]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Financial information is not held in the format requested. Owing to the number of different internal budgets to which costs would be attributable, any detailed analysis of Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) finances would therefore incur disproportionate costs. The majority of mental healthcare for service personnel is provided through MOD's 15 military-run DCMHs in the UK (with additional centres in Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar), which have since 2004 provided out-patient mental healthcare for members of the armed forces.

In-patient care, when necessary, is provided in specialised Mental Health units under contract with an external provider. Between April 2004 and March 2009, this was provided by the Priory Healthcare Group, and costs in each financial year are contained in the following table:

	Contract value (£ million)
1 December 2003 to 31 March 2004	0.4
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	4.2
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	4.5
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	3.4
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	3.9
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	3.3

These figures take into account the cost of assessing patients as well as any in-patient treatment programmes provided; the individual care needs of each patient will vary depending on their particular medical circumstances. They also include services provided by the Priory Group between 1 December 2003 and April 2004 prior to the formal contract start date.

The contract with the Priory Group has been replaced by one awarded in November 2008 to a partnership of seven NHS trusts led by South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust. They admitted their first patients under this contract in February 2009. Costs for its first year of operation will be available in summer 2010. Prior to April 2004, in-patient care was provided at MOD's Duchess of Kent psychiatric hospital at Catterick; full historic costs back to 1997 are not available.

The Ministry of Defence takes the mental health of its personnel very seriously. While post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a serious issue, and one we are making every effort to address, PTSD itself makes up only around 5 per cent. of the mental health burden of the armed forces. The majority of service personnel who develop a mental health condition will suffer from less serious conditions, such as neurotic or adjustment disorders, but we offer assessment and treatment to individuals who might be concerned about any aspect of their mental health.

The DCMHs are located to be convenient for major centres of military population, and support the provision of healthcare that is available through service primary care facilities. Many of the less serious mental health disorders are managed by primary care providers; sometimes cases are co-managed by DCMH staff and primary care staff.

While there are no DCMHs located in Wales itself, we nevertheless have arrangements in place to ensure that mental healthcare can be provided conveniently and flexibly, while reflecting the number of service personnel in the principality and their wide dispersion. Staff from the DCMH at Donnington in Shropshire run regular clinics in locations which cover all the major concentrations of personnel in Wales, namely Valley, St. Athan, Brawdy and Brecon, as well as at locations on the Welsh border such as Chepstow and Hereford. They will additionally visit individual patients as required at their home or other location. Personnel based in Wales who need to attend a DCMH will usually be referred to that at Donnington, although other units, such as those in Portsmouth and Plymouth, may be used if more convenient.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service family accommodation properties in England and Wales were identified as awaiting disposal or demolition in each year since 2004; and how much rent was paid to Annington Homes for those properties in each of those years. [322038]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It will take more time to collate and verify the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Willie Rennie:

In my answer of 12 March (Official Report, column 479W) I undertook to write to you with details of how many service family accommodation properties in England and Wales were identified for disposal or demolition in each year since 2004: and how much rent was paid to Annington Homes Ltd (Ltd) for those properties in each of those years.

The following number of properties were handed back to AHL in each year financial year since 2004-05. I also provide the following number of MOD owned properties that were disposed of, normally by open market sale, or demolished:

Financial year	*Number of properties handed back to AHL*	*Number of MOD properties disposed of*	*Number of properties demolished*
2004-05	676	76	0
2005-06	307	24	0
2006-07	460	5	0
2007-08	260	45	0
2008-09	475	1	1

It has not been possible to determine from records held how much rent was paid to AHL for each property from the point it was identified as being surplus to the MOD's requirements to when it was actually handed back to the company.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers subject to manning control have been downgraded to Grade P 4 since 2007. [325136]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Decisions on the particular regiments and service roles on which soldier manning control points will be focused have not yet been made by the Army. Each individual case will be considered on its merits, irrespective of gender.

Armed Forces: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2010, *Official Report,* columns 9-10, on armed forces: Merseyside, how many young people in the UK cadet forces were recruited into the armed forces in each of the last five years. [325005]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There is no requirement for recruits into the armed forces to specify whether they had previously been a member of any cadet force.

The cadet forces organisations seek to raise the awareness of opportunities for personal development in young people and support their career. They are not recruiting organisations, although it is acknowledged that where the cadet experience leads to a young person joining the armed forces, this is a benefit to defence.

Armed Forces: Training

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the planned closure of the research and assessment facility at the Defence Academy; and if he will make a statement. [321500]

Bill Rammell: The Defence Academy research and assessment branch undertook broad non-technical research in an evolving range of geo-strategic studies and cross-cutting global issues which centred around statecraft and governance. The Academy is currently assessing how non-technical research capability can still be delivered by reviewing the arrangements that it has in place with its academic providers Cranfield University and Kings College London to optimise the Academy's research in a manner which supports its primary activity (to enhance defence capability by providing high quality, relevant, progressive training and education underpinned by research to the four services) as well as contributing to the MOD's broader research effort.

The Academy is also looking at closer integration with activity sponsored or conducted by the Directors Defence Studies, Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) and the Defence Concept and Doctrine Centre in order to mitigate any loss of capability through the closure of the research and assessment branch.

Defence Medical Services

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which private companies Defence Medical Services uses to hire civilian medical locums to work at UK medical facilities on deployed operations; [324582]

(2) how many civilian medical locums have been employed by Defence Medical Services to provide support to Operation Herrick; and what the *(a)* specialism, *(b)* length of deployment and *(c)* cost was of each such locum. [324583]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 20 March 2010]:* The company with which the Defence Medical Services (DMS) holds an enabling contract for contracted medical support (nursing, medical support services and doctors) is Frontier Medical. Each deployment is ordinarily for a three-month period and cover has only been required for up to eight posts at any one time.

Set out in the following table are the total costs of the locums employed on Operation Herrick for each financial year since April 2007 to August 2009, together with the total numbers of individual personnel who have deployed at any time between the dates shown.

Financial year	*Total individuals deployed at any time in period as civilian locums*	*Operation*	*Total cost £ million*
April 2007-March 2008	16	Herrick (Afghanistan)	0.612
April 2008-March 2009	35	Herrick	2.34
April 2009-August 2009	26	Herrick	0.79

The service chiefs have decided that detailed data will no longer be published where this would highlight potential pinch points within the armed forces, including the DMS. I am withholding information on pinch points as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

In order to maintain appropriate external scrutiny of such data, the Department will continue to provide comprehensive restricted manning data to the House of Commons Defence Committee.

Defence: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department incurred in *(a)* equipment expenditure, *(b)* non-equipment expenditure, *(c)* service personnel costs and *(d)* civil personnel costs in Scotland in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [324959]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* Estimated direct Ministry of Defence (MOD) expenditure for Scotland in the categories requested for the years where data are available is presented in the following table:

	2007-08 current prices (£ million)
(a) Equipment expenditure	510
(b) Non Equipment expenditure	280
(c) Service personnel costs	590
(d) Civilian personnel costs	190

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 million.
2. Figures relate to expenditure in the whole Scottish Government office region rather than to any individual military or civilian establishments.
3. Indirect expenditure, such as subcontracted work, is not reflected in the figures.
4. Personnel costs exclude contributions made by MOD to the Armed Forces Pensions Scheme and War Pensions Scheme.

Since 2008 the MOD has not collected estimates of regional expenditure on equipment, non-equipment, or personnel costs as they do not directly support policy making or operations. The last estimates for 2007-08 were published in UK Defence Statistics in September 2009. As a result, the complex analysis required to produce the underlying regional expenditure data is no longer performed. Information for a comparable time series beyond 2007-08 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies have spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324436]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324564]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All members of the armed forces are required to maintain a level of physical fitness that allows them to fulfil their service obligations. As a result, gymnasiums located on military establishments are free to use by service personnel and in certain circumstances, where capacity allows, by civilian staff. In those isolated locations where a service gymnasium is not available, local subsidised arrangements are put in place, if possible, solely for service personnel.

While MOD also allows existing on-site accommodation in some establishments to be used for fitness purposes and in doing so meets the cost of changing facilities, lighting, heating and any other utilities, it does not use public money to subsidise the running or equipping of gymnasiums for civilian staff. These gyms are run either through the auspices of the Civil Service Sports Council (CSSC) and funded by member subscription, or from other subscriptions from the users of the individual gym. Grants are also available from the Defence Sports and Recreation Association, which is the MOD departmental association of the CSSC, and is funded by grant from the CSSC and a local lottery.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324978]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Given that the aim of voltage optimisation (VO) is to reduce energy consumption while maintaining the performance of equipment, MOD is interested in these devices. However, we are currently seeking to validate the claims of equipment providers and a trial of these relatively new technologies is in progress at Lympstone. The outcome of the trial will inform our approach to the application of the technology across the estate.

While opportunities exist for the installation of VO equipment, for the reasons given these have not in the main yet been taken up. That said, to assist the installation of the technology we have recently issued internal guidance on VO. This covers the factors to be considered before installation.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for his Department's websites in each of the last three years; and how much has been allocated for each such category of expenditure in 2009-10. [310761]

Bill Rammell: The Ministry of Defence and armed forces collectively maintain four principal websites. These sites are key channels to enable MOD to keep the public informed of defence activities, provide information about MOD and support recruitment.

In support of the Transformational Government agenda, we have made significant progress in rationalising other Defence websites. The closure of some 53 websites has enabled us to make savings and improve the clarity and effectiveness of the departmental web presence. A further 19 sites are committed to close by 31 March 2011.

The four remaining principal Defence websites register a high volume of web traffic. Annual page views for the corporate MOD site, www.mod.uk, have increased by 65 per cent. from 2006-09, from 17.5 million to 29 million.

Annual unique visitor numbers for www.mod.uk have increased by 34 per cent. over the same period, from 3.2 million to 4.3 million.

Expenditure for the four remaining principal sites over the last three financial years is summarised in the following table. Expenditure on these has increased while other websites have closed. Expenditure breakdown by category is not available for these financial years as this requirement was not introduced until 1 April 2009, when the "Measuring Website Costs: TG128" guidance issued by the Central Office of Information (COI) came into effect. It should be noted that the expenditure figures shown are not directly comparable year on year as costs were captured differently in each year.

£

	Financial year		
Website	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
MOD corporate website: www.mod.uk	177,875	325,600	464,853
Royal Navy: www.royalnavy.mod.uk	270,000	283,000	283,000
British Army: www.army.mod.uk	235,000	426,500	501,814
Royal Air Force: www.raf.mod.uk	173,859	155,000	425,241

Projected expenditure broken down by category for the 2009-10 financial year for the four principal websites is detailed in the following table. Figures are exclusive of internal staff costs.

£

Website	*Strategy and planning*	*Design and build*	*Hosting and infrastructure*	*Content provision*	*Testing and evaluation*	*Total*
Ministry of Defence: www.mod.uk	0	[1]417,900	126,000	[2]292	8,070	[1]552,262
Royal Navy: www.royalnavy.mod.uk	100,000	[3]74,000	109,000	0	[4]—	283,000
British Army: www.army.mod.uk	15,875	24,870	118,651	[2]1,704	25,300	186,400
Royal Air Force: www.raf.mod.uk	22,085	147,691	49,675	0	2,938	222,389

[1] This figure also includes expenditure on MOD's internal Defence intranet.
[2] Translation services.
[3] Includes testing and evaluation.
[4] Included in design and build.

A number of other websites are run by different parts of the Ministry of Defence, but these are not managed centrally. Information on these sites could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its Department's website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325200]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence and armed forces collectively maintain four corporate websites:

Ministry of Defence

www.mod.uk

Royal Navy

www.royalnavy.mod.uk

British Army

www.army.mod.uk

Royal Air Force

www.raf.mod.uk

The MOD takes the provision of usable, accessible, quality websites very seriously and we continually evaluate the services provided in light of feedback received from members of the public. Each website provides feedback mechanisms such as 'Contact Us' forms. Feedback provided via these forms covers a number of topics, and complaints are not captured separately from other feedback. Details of the number of complaints received could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325218]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence and armed forces collectively maintain four corporate websites. Expenditure on design consultancy cannot be separated from website redesign and implementation costs overall. Costs for redesign and implementation in the last three years, including design consultancy and other costs, are shown in the following table.

Website and URL		*Cost (£)*
MOD corporate website: http://www.mod.uk	2007-08	150,000
Royal Navy: http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk	2007	110,000
British Army: http://www.army.mod.uk	2008[1]	266,500
Royal Air Force: http://www.raf.mod.uk	2006-07	119,579

[1] The British Army website redesign launched on 30 May 2008; the redesign project launched in 2006 and preparatory design work was carried out between 2006 and 2008.

Departmental Location

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on the relocation of staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [321432]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence offers a wide range of relocation assistance to civilians transferring at public expense but this information is not held in the format requested.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years for which information is available; what proportion of the total work force they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [300284]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: An element of the Ministry of Defence overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

For details on the maximum and average payments for staff in the senior civil service (SCS) I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Manchester, Withington (Mr. Leech) on 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 796W. These are also the maximum payments made to any MOD civil servant. In 2006-07, 271 SCS staff were eligible for a non-consolidated performance payment, and 181 received one. In 2007-08, 266 were eligible and 186 received an award. In 2008-09, 268 were eligible and 187 received an award.

For staff below the SCS, performance awards are paid to those who meet the eligibility criteria. Higher levels of award are available for those who have contributed most to the business. These awards are distributed on the basis of relative assessment among peers and are designed to encourage continuous high attainment against stretching objectives. All MOD broader banded and Skill Zone staff below the SCS are eligible for a non-consolidated performance payment. The majority of MOD civilian staff earn less than £20,000 per year.

The MOD also operates an in-year non-consolidated payment scheme—the Special Bonus Scheme—which rewards eligible MOD civilians for exceptional performance in a specific task or for the achievement of a professional qualification, the use of which benefits MOD and the individual. Additionally Ministry of Defence police officers may be awarded a payment for exceptional performance when dealing with particularly demanding, unpleasant or important one-off tasks or situations.

The following tables detail how many people received a non-consolidated performance related pay award (both in year and end of year), and the proportion of the total work force they represented, for the five most recent financial years.

Number of staff receiving a bonus payment

	Performance award	*Number Special bonus*
2004-05	36,195	10,074
2005-06	38,962	10,131
2006-07	46,592	8,747
2007-08	54,881	6,997
2008-09	62,261	9,679

Proportion of the work force receiving an award

	Performance award	*Percentage Special bonus*
2004-05	37.1	10.3
2005-06	40.7	10.6
2006-07	51.4	9.6
2007-08	65.4	8.3
2008-09	79.3	12.3

Note: The criteria for awarding performance-related pay have changed significantly during the period 2004-05 to 2008-09. It is therefore difficult to make direct comparisons of the annual figures although the trend has been towards more civil servants receiving smaller individual performance related payments.

For the total amount of bonuses paid to all civilian staff, I refer the hon. Member to the ministerial correction dated 25 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 3-4 MC.

This response excludes information on staff below the SCS in MOD Trading Funds, which have separate pay delegations.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 2006. [306431]

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each such year. [307096]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave today to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable).

Departmental Security

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date his Department ceased to maintain a database of passes issued to major defence contractors. [323686]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has never maintained a comprehensive database of passes issued to defence contractors for the whole of the defence estate. The information is not held centrally and could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost. For information about passes issued to employees of private defence companies for access to London buildings, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 29 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 641-42W.

Electronic War

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has undertaken research on whether terrorist groups are seeking to obtain the capability to carry out electromagnetic pulse attacks on the UK. [325553]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 479W. I have nothing further to add.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had on the threat of an electromagnetic pulse attack on the UK in the context of the National Security Strategy. [325554]

Bill Rammell: The Government's National Security Strategy and the Cyber Security Strategy of June 2009 provide a view of potential state and non-state led threats against the UK into the future including the possible use of high power radio frequency transmissions or electromagnetic pulses to damage or disrupt unprotected electronics. The Ministry of Defence was fully involved with the development of this work.

Falkland Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to increase the level of defence spending on the Falkland Islands. [324892]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We keep the level of defence spending on the Falkland Islands under regular review to ensure that it remains appropriate to fund the tasks required.

Falkland Islands: Land Mines

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Government expect full mine clearance in the Falkland Islands to be completed; and what relevant contracts to effect such clearance have been entered into. [325548]

Bill Rammell: The UK was granted a 10-year extension to its obligations under the Ottawa convention in November 2008. De-mining of the Falkland Islands therefore has to be completed by March 2019.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently funding a four-site de-mining programme in the Falkland Islands. Clearance of these sites started in December 2009 and is expected to complete by July 2010. To date over 1,100 mines have been located and destroyed. Analysis of this project will inform future clearance work.

Future Rapid Effect System

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what export potential was claimed by *(a)* BAE Systems and *(b)* General Dynamics as part of their proposals to upgrade the Future Rapid Effect System armoured reconnaissance vehicle contract. [325159]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Neither BAE Global Combat Systems or General Dynamics UK made any specific claims with regard to export potential as part of their tender for the Specialist Vehicle programme.

Inquiries: Northern Ireland

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Ministry of Defence had spent under each budget heading on the *(a)* Rosemary Nelson, *(b)* Robert Hamill, *(c)* Billy Wright and *(d)* Saville Inquiry on the latest date for which figures are available. [325474]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at the end of February this year the Ministry of Defence had incurred a total of approximately £35.6 million in expenditure on the Bloody Sunday Inquiry, of which £32.5 million represented legal costs and the remainder other costs. I gave the latest available figures on costs incurred by the Department in connection with the Rosemary Nelson and Billy Wright Inquiries in a written answer on 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 40W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Blackpool, North and Fleetwood (Mrs. Humble).

The Department has incurred no expenditure in connection with the Robert Hamill Inquiry.

Low Flying

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many wind farm developers have agreed with his Department that low-flying aircraft activity may take place in the area of their wind farms. [325339]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Wind farm developers do not control the airspace within which their equipment is sited, and the Ministry of Defence does not have to approach them for authority to operate low-flying aircraft in the area of wind farms. However, generally, military aircraft will not operate in close proximity to wind farms, and will always maintain the appropriate minimum separation criteria.

Military Bases

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current estimated monetary value is of the property comprising *(a)* Naval Base Clyde, *(b)* Royal Marines Condor, *(c)* RAF Leuchars, *(d)* 2nd Division HQ Craigiehall, *(e)* Defence Estates Hebrides and *(f)* Fort George; and how much his Department plans to spend on redevelopment at each of these bases. [316518]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of all Ministry of Defence holdings over £1 million, together with their latest asset valuations can be found in chapter 7 of the National Asset Register, on HM Treasury's website

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_investment_nar_2007_index.htm

It will take a little more time to collect and verify information relating to how much the Department plans to spend on redevelopment at each base. I will write to the hon. Member.

We are interpreting DE Hebrides as referring principally to Ministry of Defence sites at Benbecula and St. Kilda and a few other locations.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Angus Robertson:

In my answers of 9 February (Official Report, column 814W-815W) I undertook to write to you with details of how much the Ministry of Defence (MOD) plans to spend on the redevelopment of various bases in Great Britain.

Work is currently under way at the MOD'S Hebrides Range to assess the investment required to maintain its capability. Until this work is complete, for which a deadline has not been set, any anticipated redevelopment expenditure cannot be identified. Also, no redevelopment work is planned at RAF Brampton as it is due to close in 2012.

For the remaining sites, the forecasted expenditure for the next five years on work that is considered to be redevelopment is as follows:

MOD site	*Total forecasted expenditure (£ million)*
Naval Base Clyde	101.6
Royal Marines Condor	12.6
HM Naval Base Devonport	39.0
HM Naval Base Portsmouth	166.2
Fort George	0.1
2nd Div HQ Craigiehall	15
RAF Leuchars	112.4
RAF Valley	16.9
RAF Marham	47.8
RAF Honington	13.8
RAF Wittering	35.3
RAF Wattisham	0.8
RAF Northolt	25.4
RAF High Wycombe	35.4
RAF Brize Norton	216.0
RAF Leeming	29.4

Weapons: Transport

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the staffing levels required at each waterside depot to maintain the safe supply of armaments to vessels. [325582]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Staffing levels were assessed as part of the proposals made in the Business Improvement Programme undertaken by the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency's Explosives Business Stream. These proposals are subject to trade unions consultation, which is due to complete in July 2010. It would be inappropriate for me to comment while the consultation is ongoing.

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he took account of the recommendations of the Haddon-Cave Nimrod review in respect of the proposals for the supply of armaments to waterside depots by direct delivery contained in the Business Improvement Programme consultation. [325583]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Safety is paramount in the munitions environment. The use of direct delivery, if fully implemented, will be consistent with the Haddon-Cave recommendations.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to answer question 300284, on departmental pay, tabled on 18 November 2009. [313133]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I replied to the hon. Member today. I apologise for the delay.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Nurseries

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2010, *Official Report,* column 170W, on nurseries, for what reason there is no reference to the petition in the minutes of the Commission's meeting of 8 March 2010; and when the Commission plans to respond to the petitioners. [324986]

Nick Harvey: The Commission made no decision on 8 March on a response to the petition. It agreed a response on 29 March.

Mr. Chope: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will place in the Library a copy of the fully costed options appraisal for a child care facility at 1 Parliament street as agreed by the Commission at its meeting on 23 November 2009. [325750]

Nick Harvey: It is not the practice to publish advice given to the Commission. However, as the hon. Member knows, in response to a request from the Administration Committee, Mr. Speaker wrote to the Chairman of that Committee in January explaining how the planned site had been selected from among the sites initially considered and setting out the estimated cost of converting each of the premises covered by the fully costed options appraisal.

Speaker's Adviser

Kate Hoey: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much the Speaker's special adviser has claimed for travel expenses since he was appointed. [325460]

Nick Harvey: No expenses of any kind have been claimed.

Kate Hoey: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many days the Speaker's special adviser has worked since 30 November 2009. [325461]

Nick Harvey: The Speaker's adviser has worked for 73.5 days since 30 November 2009, up to and including 12 March 2010.

Unite

Mr. Dunne: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the House of Commons Commission recognises the Unite trade union. [325348]

Nick Harvey: The Unite union is not a recognised trade union under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1992 for the purpose of collective bargaining with the House Service. However, the House Administration has recently agreed a draft memorandum of understanding with Unite and the Members' and Peers' Staff Association, who represent staff employed by hon. Members. The memorandum covers a range of areas for dialogue, including IT, catering, training and premises-related issues.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to place a cap on the maximum salary and remuneration package for the post of chief executive of the Audit Commission. [324509]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This appointment is to be made by the Audit Commission, whose Chair has assured my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government that in this recruitment exercise the Commission will follow the principles for public sector pay that we are developing with the Chair of the Senior Salaries Pay Review Body.

Council Housing

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were attributed to each banding allocation on the choice-based lettings scheme in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* each local authority area in the East of England and *(c)* England (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) on the latest date for which information is available. [325334]

Mr. Ian Austin: This information is not collected centrally.

Council Housing: Debts

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his estimate is of the amount of historic debt remaining on local authority housing. [325561]

John Healey: The assumed housing debt, the subsidy capital financing requirement, for each authority is calculated annually by my Department using data supplied by the local authorities themselves on their Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Subsidy base data forms. The information is published, after consultation, in annual HRA Subsidy Determinations. The 2010-11 Determination is available on the Communities and Local Government website at this address:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/hradetermination201011

Council Tax

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average council tax bill on a band D home *(a)* was in 1997-98 and *(b)* will be in 2010-11 in (i) cash terms and (ii) real terms in 2010 prices. [325329]

Barbara Follett: The average band D council tax in England in 1997-98 was £688 and will be £1,439 in 2010-11. The figure for 1997-98, in real terms based on April 2009 prices, is £931.

It is not possible to express this figure in April 2010 prices as the relevant deflator is not yet available.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average band D fire precept on council tax bills was in *(a)* England and *(b)* each individual local authority in (i) 1998-99 and (ii) 2010-11 in (A) cash terms and (B) real terms in 2010 prices. [325330]

Barbara Follett: I have today placed in the Library of the House, a table showing the average band D council tax precept collected by billing authorities on behalf of fire authorities in 1998-99 and to be collected in 2010-11. Figures for 1998-99 at April 2009 prices are also shown. It is not possible to express these figures in April 2010 prices as the relevant deflator is not yet available. All the figures are shown in £ sterling.

Data are only shown for those authorities that collected, or will collect, a precept on behalf of the fire authority responsible for their area in either 1998-99 or in 2010-11. From 1 April 2004 combined fire authorities in shire areas became major precepting authorities, having previously been financed by payments from county and unitary councils in their area. Where an authority is not listed this is because the fire service is still run directly by the county council, and so they do not levy a separate fire precept on the billing authority.

In 1998-99 London authorities separately reported the band D council tax precept they collected on behalf of the London fire brigade. In 2010-11 this could not be separately identified from the general GLA precept.

Crown Estates: Fire Services

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons there is a separate fire safety inspection regime for Crown premises; and whether he plans to create a single unified regime. [325303]

Mr. Malik: The separate fire safety inspection regime reflects the different way in which the Crown is treated under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/1541), and in particular the fact that the enforcement provisions of the order do not apply to the Crown. The Fire Precautions Act 1971, which preceded the 2005 order, made a similar distinction. The Government have no plans to create a single unified regime.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325202]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not keep records of complaints received regarding the operation of its website.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325220]

Barbara Follett: The Department redesigned its website in August 2007. For information relating to the costs of this redesign, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 264W.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much his Department spent on maintaining its Flickr channel in the last 12 months; [325592]

(2) how much his Department spent on maintaining its YouTube channel in the last 12 months. [325595]

Barbara Follett: The corporate YouTube channel is maintained as part of the routine business of the Department's web team alongside other social media channels. There is no budget assigned to this channel.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on maintaining its Twitter feed in the last 12 months. [325594]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 966W.

Departmental Legislation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 953W, on departmental legislation, for what reasons each substantive piece of uncommenced legislation has not been commenced. [323989]

Barbara Follett: The information requested, where it is held centrally, is provided in the following table. Section 314 and schedule 15 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 are fully in force and not partially commenced as stated in my answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 953W. The remaining information requested is not held by the Department and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Legislation	*Explanation*
Local Government Act 2003: Section 68	This amendment would remove the requirement for the place of religious worship to be registered under the Places of Worship Registration Act 1855. The amendment was intended to cater for any repeal of the 1855 Act, which may have happened as part of the legislation on civil partnerships. To date, there has been no repeal of the 1855 Act, so my Department has no current plans to bring the section into force
Local Government Act 2003: Section 69	Before the power could be removed, properties with prescribed rateable values were moved to standard rating assessments. This has now been completed, and there are no properties remaining on which the Secretary of State has prescribed a rateable value. However, the final step of removing the power to prescribe has not yet been carried forward
Local Government Act 2003: Section 90	Section 80ZA of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 is fully in force. Subsection 90(4) of the Local Government Act 2003, which amends section 141(8) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, allowing amounts of housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy payable to the Secretary of State to be set off against other amounts payable by him, has not yet been commenced. We are not currently aware of any circumstances indicating that use of this power would be appropriate. There are no proposals to commence the power at present
Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009: Sections 1 to 9	The Duty to Promote Democracy is important and we want to ensure that its introduction has a positive and proactive response from local government given the likely costs involved in implementing it effectively. We have therefore been looking at when the duty should be implemented. We have concluded that given the current economic situation implementation of the duty should be considered as part of the next Spending Review
Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009: Sections 10 to 22	The Commencement Order (210 No. 881) relating to the petitions duty was made on 19 March 2010

Legislation	*Explanation*
Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009: Sections 34 to 36	Ministers said in the House that we would consult on regulations imposing restrictions or conditions on the use of the mutual insurance power by best value authorities and also on guidance. Following consultation it will be necessary to commence the mutual insurance provisions in the Act (section 148(2)(b))
Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009: Sections 37 to 54	Ministers said in the House that we would consult on the content of proposed regulations defining qualifying entities. Following consultation it will be necessary to commence the audit provisions in the Act (section 148(2)(b))
Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009: Sections 138 to 145	The commencement date for Construction Contract provisions in part 8 is dependent on the revision of the Scheme for Construction Contracts (England and Wales) Regulations 1998. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills issued a consultation document on amendments to the scheme on 25 March 2010. The draft regulations will be approved by resolution of each House of Parliament. This will give the construction industry sufficient time to prepare for the changes being made by part 8
Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002: Sections 121, 122 (partially), 123, 124 and Schedule 8	Attempts to implement these provisions led to the identification of significant workability issues: following public consultation in 2009, a summary of responses is to be published shortly, indicating that there are no current plans to proceed with implementation of these provisions
Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002: Sections 152 (partially), 154, 156 (partially), 157 (partially) and Schedule 10 (partially); and, Housing and Regeneration Act 2008: Section 303 and Schedule 12	The Government remain committed to implementing these provisions. Work is in progress with stakeholders to develop the regulations to give effect to these provisions with a target date of October 2010
Housing Act 2004: Section 265 and Schedules 15 (partially), 16 (partially)	Section 265 and schedule 15 give the Secretary of State, or where appropriate the National Assembly for Wales, powers to make incidental and consequential provisions to the Act as he considers appropriate. Therefore, these provisions would only be commenced if the Secretary of State considers it appropriate to make incidental and consequential provisions to the Act. Section 266 and schedule 16 repeal provisions in other enactments. Two repeals in schedule 16 have not been commenced. These relate to the London Building Acts amendment Act 1939, sections 35(1)(c)(i) and 36(1) (repealing the words "or sleep") and the Building Act 1984 (section 72(6)(a). These changes were rendered unnecessary by other legislation. There are two other repeals in the Health Services Commissioners Act 1993 and the Government of Wales Act 1998 which are the responsibility of the Welsh Ministers
Housing and Regeneration Act 2008: Sections 4 (partially), 19 (partially), 31, 32 (partially), 33 (partially), 35, 56 and Schedule 8 (partially), 57 (partially), 58 (partially) covering the Homes and Communities Agency and Sections 60-63, 64 (partially), 68-71 (partially), 73-80 (partially), 94, 95 to 98 (partially), 106 to 111, 112 to 113 (partially), 115, 116 to 117 (partially), 118, 119 (partially), 120 to 126, 127 (partially), 128 to 130, 131 (partially), 132 to 143, 144 to 145 (partially), 146 to 173, 174 (partially), 175 to 191, 198 (partially), 199 to 101, 102 (partially), 203 to 211, 212 (partially), 213, 214 to 215 (partially), 217 to 227, 228 (partially), 229 to 233, 234 (partially), 235 to 239, 240 (partially), 241 to 243, 244 (partially), 245 to 274, 275 to 276 (partially), 277, 278 and Schedule 9 (partially) Covering the Regulation of Social Housing	The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 is currently being implemented by the Government. The provisions relating to the establishment of the Homes and Communities Agency and those relating to the regulation of Social Housing take effect from 1 April 2010
Housing and Regeneration Act 2008: Sections 279 to 293 and Schedule 10	The Government will review the effectiveness of the sustainability certificates in home information pack (mandatory requirement since May 2008) in giving buyers information on how sustainable houses are and will make decisions on commencing the H&R Act 2008 powers in due course
Housing and Regeneration Act 2008: Sections 294, 299 and Schedule 11 (partially), 303 and Schedule 12 (partially), 314 and 15 (partially), 316 (partially), 318, 321 and Schedule 16 (partially)	The Government remain committed to implementing the remaining provisions of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008. Statutory instruments will be laid as soon as parliamentary time is available

Departmental Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff of each (i) sex, (ii) ethnic group and (ii) disability were recruited to work in his Department's headquarters in (A) each financial year since 2004-05 and (B) 2009-10. [323535]

Barbara Follett: The Department publishes information on the diversity of its workforce, including recruitment data, in its annual Workforce Diversity Data Report. Copies of the 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 reports have been placed in the Library of the House. The 2008-09 report has not yet been published.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 24 March 2010, on operational efficiency, whether the £200 million of efficiency savings announced will be in addition to the £500 million of savings identified in the pre-Budget report. [325325]

Barbara Follett: The £200 million contribution to operational efficiency and Smarter Government savings are in addition to the £500 million announced at 2009 pre-Budget report. The £200 million of savings is my Department's contribution towards £11 billion savings that are being made across Government. The £11 billion of savings will help halve the deficit over four years and protect front-line priorities.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which programmes the £500 million of savings identified in the Pre-Budget Report will apply; and whether this sum includes savings from the *(a)* New Deal for Communities Fund, *(b)* Working Neighbourhoods Fund, *(c)* Local Enterprise Growth Initiative, *(d)* Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme and *(e)* Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. [325326]

Barbara Follett: The Public Value Programme, launched at Budget 2008, has been conducting demanding value for money reviews across at least 50 per cent. of each Department's budget. On the basis of the early findings of the programme, the 2009 pre-Budget report announced £5 billion of savings by 2012-13 through cutting lower value or lower priority spend. CLG's contribution to this figure was £500 million. Budget 2010 announces further details of these savings, including:

Improved targeting of housing growth and regeneration funding, saving £340 million: including £40 million by concluding the new deal for communities, and a further £300 million from rationalising regional development agency regeneration spending, and programmes including the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative and the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant.

Saving at least £35 million in housing benefit costs; ending smaller Communities and Local Government (CLG) funded time-limited communities programmes, saving £25 million; and rationalising other smaller CLG programmes, saving a total of £160 million.

Fire Services: Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many incidents the London Fire Brigade have attended in the London borough of Havering in each year since 1997. [325602]

Mr. Malik: The number of incidents attended by the London Fire Brigade by borough is readily available for periods from April 1999, thus data are shown for years since 2000.

Incidents attended in the London Borough of Havering by the London Fire Brigade, 2000-09

	Number of incidents
2000	3,076
2001	3,487
2002	3,313
2003	3,983
2004	3,084
2005	3,279
2006	3,245
2007	2,779
2008	2,489
2009	2,570

Source:
London Fire Brigade

Government Office for the North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times the Assistant Regional Minister for the North West has *(a)* been invited to and *(b)* attended meetings with the Government Office for the North West in the last 12 months. [311367]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Assistant Regional Minister for the North West is invited to attend meetings with the Government Office for the North West as appropriate.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much will be provided in management and maintenance grants and major repairs allowance in the Housing Revenue Account determination settlement for 2010. [325556]

John Healey: The expenditure allowances, based upon assumed stock levels, in the HRA subsidy determination 2010-11 are maintenance £1.22 billion; management £2.10 billion; and major repairs £1.27 billion.

Housing: Conferences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation for (i) Ministers and (ii) officials attending the MIPIM International Property conference in (A) 2007, (B) 2008 and (C) 2009. [323251]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which commissioners have been appointed to the Infrastructure Planning Commission to date; and what criteria he used in deciding on each appointment. [325401]

John Healey: 26 commissioners, including the Chair and two Deputy Chairs have been appointed to the Infrastructure Planning Commission, the majority of whom are on call-off contracts. These appointments have been made following an open and transparent recruitment process and represent a range of expertise. A list of the appointees with attached biographies has been placed in the Library of the House, along with details of the selection criteria employed. The IPC website also contains details of all those appointed.

We also anticipate announcing the appointment of a further 13 commissioners, again on a call-off contract basis, shortly.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government have to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. [320956]

Mr. Malik: The Government are working to build a fairer, more equal society, where a person's chances and opportunities in life are determined solely by their talent and effort—not by their class, gender, religion or race. We are tackling race inequality by enforcing the strong legal framework, promoting clear leadership in public bodies and focusing work on race across Government.

To mark the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March, on 22 March the British embassy in Bucharest hosted an event for NGOs, civil society and the media on anti-discrimination and tackling racism. Ambassador Robin Barnett and the Romanian Minister for Education both spoke at this event.

On 19 March, ambassador Peter Gooderham, the UK's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, attended a screening of the film "Colour Blind" hosted

by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at the United Nations in Geneva. During the subsequent panel discussion, ambassador Gooderham reaffirmed our commitment to tackle racism both in the UK and internationally.

Multiple Occupation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his plans to introduce a definition of houses in multiple occupation into the Use Classes Order, what estimate he has made of the number of additional planning applications likely to result annually. [324614]

John Healey: We have estimated that there could be an average of 8,500 additional planning applications per year.

Non-Domestic Rates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average business rate charge was in England in *(a)* real terms in 2010 prices and *(b)* cash terms in each year since 1997-98 for which figures are available. [324786]

Barbara Follett: We do not hold figures for the average bill paid by an individual business for national non-domestic rates. However, for 1997-98 to 2009-10, the figures derived from dividing the net rate yield from local authorities' rating lists by the number of hereditaments on the local list as at 31 December of the previous year are shown in the following table.

The figures shown are for England, and are in both cash and in real terms based on 2009 prices. It is not possible to express these figures in April 2010 prices as the relevant deflator is not yet available.

	Cash (£)	*Real terms (£)*
1997-98	6,796	9,196
1998-99	7,016	9,126
1999-2000	6,988	8,959
2000-01	9,264	10,275
2001-02	9,714	10,647
2002-03	9,871	10,919
2003-04	9,137	10,065
2004-05	9,301	10,503
2005-06	9,997	11,035
2006-07	10,275	11,059
2007-08	10,330	10,637
2008-09	11,274	11,142
2009-10	12,145	12,145

The data are taken from national non-domestic rates (NNDR) returns submitted by all billing authorities in England. Figures for 2009-10 are estimates and data for 2010-11 are not yet available.

Comparisons between years may not be valid as the rateable values for individual properties and hence the actual rates bills vary greatly. Changes in the number of hereditaments on the local lists will also affect the figures. In particular, the figures for 1998-99 to 2000-01 are affected by transfers of properties from the central list to local ones, transfers of crown properties to local lists and adjustments made to the multiplier at the time of the 2000 revaluation. Changes in the figures for the years around 2005-06 are also affected by adjustments made to the multiplier at the time of the 2005 revaluation.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average business rate charge was in each billing authority in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 in (i) real terms in 2010 prices and (ii) cash terms. [324787]

Barbara Follett: We do not hold figures for the average bill paid by an individual business for national non-domestic rates. However, I have today placed in the Library of the House a table containing, for 2009-10, the figures derived from dividing the net rate yield from local authorities' rating lists by the number of hereditaments on the local list as at 31 December of the previous year.

The data are taken from the national non-domestic rates (NNDR) budget forms completed annually by all billing authorities in England.

Data for 2010-11 are not yet available.

Comparisons with previous years may not be valid as the rateable values for individual properties, and hence actual rates bills, vary greatly. In addition, the number of hereditaments in an authority may change from year to year. Also comparisons between authorities may not be valid as the data for an authority may be affected by a small number of large hereditaments.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average business rates bill in England *(a)* was in 1997-98, *(b)* was in 2009-10 and *(c)* will be in 2010-11 in (i) cash terms and (ii) real terms in 2010 prices. [325327]

Barbara Follett: We do not hold figures for the average bill paid by an individual business for national non-domestic rates. However, for 1997-98 and 2009-10, figures derived from dividing the net rate yield from local authorities' rating lists by the number of hereditaments on the local list as at 31 December of the previous year are shown in the following table.

The figures shown are for England, and are in both cash and in real terms based on 2009 prices. It is not possible to express these figures in April 2010 prices as the relevant deflator is not yet available.

	Cash (£)	*Real terms (£)*
1997-98	6,796	9,196
2009-10	12,145	12,145

The data are taken from national non-domestic rates (NNDR) returns submitted by all billing authorities in England. Figures for 2009-10 are estimates and data for 2010-11 are not yet available.

Comparisons between years may not be valid as the rateable values for individual properties, and hence the actual rates bills, vary greatly. Changes in the number of hereditaments on the local lists will also affect the figures. In particular, the figures for 1998-99 to 2000-01 are affected by transfers of properties from the central list to local ones, transfers of Crown properties to local lists and adjustments made to the multiplier at the time of the 2000 revaluation. Changes in the figures for the years around 2005-06 are also affected by adjustments made to the multiplier at the time of the 2005 revaluation.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average business rates bill was in each Government Office region in each year since 1997-98; and what it is expected to be in each region in 2010-11. [325331]

Barbara Follett: We do not hold figures for the average bill paid by an individual business for national non-domestic rates. However, for 1997-98 to 2009-10, regional figures derived from dividing the net rate yield from local authorities' rating lists by the number of hereditaments on the local list as at 31 December of the previous year are shown in the following table.

	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*England*
1997-98	5,501	5,215	5,381	5,716	5,686	7,026	10,057	7,208	7,087	6,796
1998-99	5,978	5,589	5,869	6,142	6,250	7,125	10,433	7,759	5,295	7,016
1999-2000	6,159	5,770	6,005	6,251	6,487	7,080	9,792	7,796	5,412	6,998
2000-01	6,968	6,825	6,954	7,237	7,588	8,096	12,033	9,212	6,332	8,264
2001-02	7,305	7,273	7,433	7,670	7,756	8,476	12,842	9,705	6,570	8,714
2002-03	7,498	7,646	7,664	7,846	8,003	8,685	13,753	10,045	6,658	9,071
2003-04	7,518	7,708	7,623	7,893	8,055	8,620	14,124	10,053	6,614	9,137
2004-05	7,701	7,793	7,773	7,955	8,192	8,740	14,484	10,252	6,662	9,301
2005-06	8,367	8,086	8,317	8,477	8,672	9,575	15,705	11,124	7,195	9,997
2006-07	8,704	8,496	8,479	9,021	8,906	10,003	15,886	11,192	7,538	10,275
2007-08	8,941	8,719	8,501	9,189	9,031	9,999	15,733	11,210	7,655	10,330
2008-09	9,452	9,473	9,288	9,946	9,743	10,804	17,482	12,325	8,279	11,274
2009-10	10,157	10,159	10,009	10,610	10,602	11,519	19,120	13,190	8,816	12,145

The data are taken from NNDR returns submitted by billing authorities.

Comparisons across regions and years may not be valid as the rateable values for individual properties, and hence actual rates bills, vary greatly. Changes in the figures for the years around 2000-01 are affected by transfers of properties from the central list to local lists, transfers of crown properties to local lists and the adjustments made to the multiplier at the time of the 2000 revaluation to take account of losses from appeals. Changes in the figures for the years around 2005-06 are also affected by adjustments made to the multiplier at the time of the 2005 revaluation.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 605W, on non-domestic rates, what projection has been made of the *(a)* change in rateable value on the ratings list resulting from rateable value appeals and *(b)* the amount of fees payable by those appealing against their rateable value in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [323091]

Barbara Follett: No projection has been made of the change in rateable value on the ratings list resulting from appeals. However, for the purpose of modelling the 2010 transitional relief scheme, my Department has made an assumption about the total reduction in RV as a result of appeals.

The assumptions used for this modelling are detailed in the consultation document titled "The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England". The methodology and assumptions can be found on page 49 of the consultation. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

There are no fees payable to valuation officers for making proposals challenging rateable values. Nor are there hearing fees payable should the proposal become an appeal to the Valuation Tribunal for England. Many ratepayers choose to employ the services of a professional representative to handle their rating liability. This is a personal matter between ratepayer and representative.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* address, *(b)* 2005 rateable value and *(c)* 2010 rateable value is of each hereditament with a special category code of public houses/pub restaurants (national scheme). [324511]

Barbara Follett: The Valuation Office Agency has published the current 2005 and draft 2010 Rating Lists on the internet at:

www.voa.gov.uk

Search facilities within the site (using the 'Agent' access, which is open to any individual) allows the identification of properties within billing authorities by SCAT code. Public houses/pub restaurants (national scheme) are identified by SCAT 226.

Piers: Repairs and Maintenance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent restoring seafront piers in each year since 1997. [325603]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected by this Department and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Public Houses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent discussions he has had with pub landlords on the effects of the recession on their businesses; [325597]

(2) whether he has visited any pubs on official business in the last 12 months; [325599]

(3) what assistance his Department has provided to pubs during the recession. [325600]

John Healey: Since the Prime Minister asked me to lead work across Government to help and support Britain's community pubs in January, I have made a number of visits to pubs and had various discussions with landlords. I have also had discussions with cross-party groups and other organisations directly concerned with the pub industry.

On 19 March 2010, I published the Government's package of measures to support community pubs. Our plans fall into three main categories:

Business support

Industry standards and consumer choice

Community and local authority action.

Further details on our package of measures can be found on our website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1511255

In addition to this package of measures described above, Planning Policy Statement 4: 'Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth' (published in December 2009) provides policy tools for local authorities to take into account the importance of pubs to the local community when a planning application is made that would result in its loss and enables them to refuse planning permission where people's day to day needs are not safeguarded.

Public Sector

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place a copy of the final report from each Total Place pilot in the Library. [325328]

Barbara Follett: The reports of the 13 pilot areas have been published online and are available through the Total Place website at:

http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/totalplace/news/pilots-final-reports/

Tenant Services Authority: Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff work in the Tenant Services Authority communications team; and what the cost to the public purse was of that team on the latest date for which figures are available. [313092]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Tenant Services Authority employs 3.7 full-time equivalent staff in its press office and public affairs teams. The total cost to the public purse of employing these staff in the 12 months since TSA was established on 1 December 2008 was £171,300.

Unitary Councils

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been accepted for unitary status in each year since 1997. [325601]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since 1997, 26 proposals for unitary structures were submitted in January 2007 following the Invitation to Councils in England issued in October 2006. A further Invitation for unitary structures in Bedfordshire was issued in November 2007 and one proposal was received in response to it. From these proposals, nine unitary councils were established on 1 April 2009, and orders creating a further two on 1 April 2011, Exeter and Ipswich, have now been made following their approval by Parliament.

World Urban Forum

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who represented his Department at the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010; and whether his Department allocated funding to that forum. [324605]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No one from the Department for Communities and Local Government attended this year's World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro; nor was any money allocated to the event.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer questions *(a)* 323248, *(b)* 323249 and *(c)* 323251 on the MIPIM international property conference, tabled by the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield on 16 March 2010. [325232]

Barbara Follett: I have now replied to the hon. Member's questions.

CABINET OFFICE

Business: Cardiff

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small businesses have *(a)* closed and *(b)* opened in (i) Cardiff Central constituency and (ii) Cardiff in each of the last five years. [325320]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small businesses have (a) closed and (b) opened in (i) Cardiff Central constituency and (ii) Cardiff in each of the last five years. [325320]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Information on the number of enterprise deaths by parliamentary constituency is only available from 2005 onwards. The table below contains the latest statistics available on small enterprise birth and deaths in Cardiff over the past five years.

Count of enterprise birth and deaths for Cardiff unitary authority and Cardiff, Central parliamentary constituency from 2004-08 with less than 50 employment (small)

	Births		Deaths	
	Cardiff	Cardiff, Central	Cardiff	Cardiff, Central
2004	1,370	385	1,155	n/a
2005	1,310	390	1,040	325
2006	1,135	335	1,020	295
2007	1,085	300	1,055	295
2008	1,120	345	960	290

Note:
A small business is defined as an enterprise with less than 50 employment

Departmental Private Detectives

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 873W, on private detectives, how much her Department spent on hiring or commissioning individuals from the panel of independent investigators in each of the last five years. [312258]

Tessa Jowell: My Department has incurred no costs in hiring or commissioning individuals from the panel of independent investigators.

Government Communications Review

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which recommendations made in the report of the Phillis Review on Government communication have not been implemented to date. [323450]

Tessa Jowell: Government communications have changed fundamentally over the past five years. Substantial progress has been made towards implementing the findings of the Phillis Review and all the key recommendations have been taken forward, except for Recommendation 10.1 calling for on camera lobby briefings, which was not implemented. Briefings are off the camera but on the record, a record of the briefings is available on the PM's website the same day.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Bullying

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many complaints against special advisers alleging bullying or harassment have been made by civil servants since 1997. [323452]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office does not hold this information for the civil service. This information may be held by the individual employing Departments.

The civil service has a zero tolerance policy on bullying and harassment.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department has undertaken costings of the policies of the *(a)* Conservative Party and *(b)* Liberal Democrat Party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months. [324242]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Portsmouth, North (Sarah McCarthy-Fry), on 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1044W.

Union of Good

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what investigations the Charity Commission has carried out into links between humanitarian charities based in the UK and the Union of Good in the last 12 months. [325224]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 29 March 2010:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission I have been asked to respond to your written question on what investigations we have carried out into links between humanitarian charities based in the UK and the Union for Good in the last twelve months.

In 2009 we published a report of our statutory inquiry into the Palestinians Relief and Development Fund, registered charity number 1040094 (known as Interpal). Among other issues, the inquiry considered the relationship between this charity and the Union for Good, which we understand to be a coalition of UK and overseas organisations working with Palestinians and in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The inquiry concluded that the charity's membership of the Union for Good was not appropriate, and directed the charity to take a number of actions, including to disassociate itself from membership of the Union for Good.

At the time this inquiry report was published, the Charity Commission was aware of concerns that had been raised that other charities, registered in England and Wales, were said to be members of the Union for Good. We investigated these concerns and concluded that, on the evidence then before us, this was not the case.

The Commission is continuing to monitor Interpal's compliance with the requirements of the Commission.

I will arrange for a copy of the statement of results of the inquiry on the charity Interpal to placed in the Library of the House. We would be very happy to meet you to discuss this area of our work further.

I hope this is helpful.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he discussed the effect of the UK committing to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 42 per cent. by 2020 with representatives of other governments at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. [324704]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* My right hon. Friend did not discuss the effect of the UK committing to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 42 per cent. with representatives of other Governments at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on the UK of a reduction in the UK's carbon dioxide emissions by 42 per cent. by 2020. [324762]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* In July last year we published a Low Carbon Transition Plan and an accompanying analytical annex that set out how we would reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet our carbon budgets and the cost to the UK of doing so, consistent with reducing emissions by 34 per cent. by 2020. Were we to move to a higher target and set new carbon budgets consistent with that, then the Climate Change Act, requires that we publish our proposals and policies for delivering those emissions reductions as soon as is practicable following the setting of new budgets in legislation.

Climate Change: Publicity

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on advertising aimed at raising awareness of climate change among *(a)* all people and *(b)* people under the age of 18 since its establishment. [319424]

Joan Ruddock: Act on CO_2 advertising is aimed at adults.

Invoiced media costs for the climate literacy advertising strand of the Act on CO_2 campaign are £4.78 million, inclusive of fees and exclusive of VAT.

The Department has not bought advertising for the Act on CO_2 campaign—or any other campaign activity—specifically aimed at under-18s.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324563]

Joan Ruddock: The Department provides accommodation, at no cost, for gym facilities in 3 Whitehall Place. The actual gym facilities and equipment are provided and managed by the DEFRA Sports and Social Association.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken since its inception. [324675]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to his question 320471 on the cost of refurbishment on 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 101W, which included the cost of interior design. This cost cannot be separately identified. In addition, the cost of interior design in relation to internal communications work was £38,404 in 2008-09 and £54,522 in 2009-10.

Departmental Consultants

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each other body for which his Department is responsible spent on external consultants and advisers in each year since 2005. [319812]

Joan Ruddock The Department of Energy and Climate Change was created on 3 October 2008. In the financial year 2008-09 the Department spent £7,277,000 on external consultants and advisers.

Additionally the bodies for which the Department is responsible spent a total of £14,720,000 on external consultants and advisers.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each year since its inception; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320639]

Joan Ruddock: No records are collated centrally regarding how many procedures have been initiated in the Department since its creation in October 2008.

We are unable to provide the number of staff dismissed (all reasons) under section 40 of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in current prices. [324813]

Joan Ruddock: The cost of employing press and media officers from April 2009 to January 2010 (latest figure available) was £407,000.

DECC was created in October 2008.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [325199]

Joan Ruddock: None.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [325217]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 796W.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo since its inception; and what those items were. [324723]

Joan Ruddock: The spend on promotional items is:

(a) £2,454, a combined order of a mug for each member of staff as part of our departmental launch and low cost branded pens for internal and external use

(b) £450, a further set of mugs to promote DECC's new values.

As well as having a promotional aspect these items were produced for sustainability reasons in support of our departmental remit. The pens were produced from recycled materials and the mugs used to reduce the use of disposable cardboard cups.

We have deliberately kept use of such promotional materials to a minimum.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many job vacancies in his Department and its agencies were filled through external recruitment in the last year for which figures are available. [315505]

Joan Ruddock: DECC recruited 51 people through external recruitment in the last year.

Energy Supply

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of changes in the carbon price set under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme on private sector investment in energy supply infrastructure. [325246]

Joan Ruddock: No assessment has been made on this particular issue. The Government have recently published the initial findings of their Energy Market Assessment, which recognises the carbon price and its long-term certainty is one of many, and not the most significant factor, that affects investment decisions in electricity generation. Gas price volatility and its relationship to electricity price is a key driver, as well as, uncertainty around future electricity demand and the impact of renewables on wholesale electricity prices.

Despite these uncertainties and the current low level of demand, high levels of investment are currently taking place. National Grid's data show that 20 GW are currently under construction or have been granted planning consent.

The next stage of our Energy Markets Assessment work will be a detailed assessment of a range of options for reforming the electricity market to meet our objectives beyond 2020, assessing them against cost-effectiveness, affordability and investor certainty. Government will consult on proposals in autumn 2010 and publish a White Paper in 2011.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account will be taken of the full life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions of each fuel type in identifying low carbon generation technologies which will be eligible for specific support under the five groups of options referred to in paragraphs 4.7 to 4.48 of his Department's report on Energy Market Assessment. [325104]

Mr. Kidney: As set out in the DECC publication "Valuation of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions for appraisal and evaluation", which can be found on the DECC website, the emissions associated with imports are not included in the UK's national inventory.

Greenhouse gases emitted elsewhere in Europe which form part of full life cycle emissions for fuels used in the UK, have to meet their costs through the EU Emissions Trading System.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has made an estimate of the effect on the level of carbon dioxide emissions that would result from the installation of room thermostats in homes where they are not presently installed. [325465]

Joan Ruddock: The Department keeps abreast of published research relevant to this question as well as carrying out its own field trials of energy saving measures in homes. Heating controls in homes can save energy and thereby reduce carbon dioxide emissions if they allow the occupants to maintain comfort by not heating the home (or part of the home) when this is not needed. However, recent field evidence indicates that these controls make little difference and may not save energy or reduce emissions as they are not used as intended. We will be working with the industry and researchers to understand how heating controls could be better designed and deployed to deliver energy savings.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Springfields

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 24 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 42WS, on the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (Springfields Site), what insurance arrangements will apply under the new arrangements for management of the plant. [325400]

Mr. Kidney: Under the new arrangements for the management of the site, with effect from 1 April 2010 the insurance arrangements for the Springfields site will be a matter for Springfields Fuels Ltd. and its owner. Under the agreements between the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Springfields Fuels Ltd. the latter is required to have a range of insurances including Nuclear Installations Act 1965 liability insurance. No insurance arrangements will be made by either the Department for Energy and Climate Change or the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

Nuclear Power: Public Consultation

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to the public purse was of holding the public meeting on his Department's group on documents on nuclear justification at the Marriott Hotel, Marble Arch on 19 January 2010; whether his Department made provision for the reimbursement of participants for travel costs; what assessment his Department made of the comparative cost of holding that meeting at his Department; whether he has made an assessment of the merits of recovering the cost of the meeting from the Nuclear Industry Association; whether he has plans for any further such meeting; and what record of that meeting *(a)* was circulated to participants and *(b)* he plans to post on his Department's website. [325667]

Mr. Kidney: Further to my answers of 2 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 187W, and 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 617W; which covered most of the points in my hon. Friend's question, the final cost of the public meeting held as part of the consultation on my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's proposed Regulatory Justification decisions on new nuclear power stations was £12,951. This included the cost of travel for some delegates. A Government venue was not chosen on this occasion as a hotel offered more flexible options for staging the event. The meeting was part of the consultation and it is therefore proper that the Government meet the cost. The consultation being over, we have no current plans for any further such meeting. A transcript of the meeting was circulated to delegates and placed on the Department's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/reg_just_cons/regjustcons.aspx

Renewable Energy: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department has allocated to renewable energy projects in Scotland in each of the last five years; and what funding allocations have been made for future years. [324522]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* Since 2005, £10.5 million has been awarded to renewable energy projects in Scotland spread across the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Funding is not 'allocated' to Scotland as the majority of renewable energy funding schemes operated by DECC are open across the UK on a competitive basis.

HMG also provides funding through other delivery partners (for example, the Carbon Trust) and for research, development and demonstration projects which are not yet operational.

Uranium: Imports

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much uranium has been imported from each country for civilian uses in each year since 1997. [320983]

Mr. Kidney: Uranium comes in many different forms. Providing a list of all forms, from all countries, would be prohibitively expensive.

Warm Front Scheme: Greater Manchester

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* the City of Manchester and *(b)* Manchester Central constituency have received assistance under the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme since its inception. [324883]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* The following tables show the number of households in the City of Manchester and Constituency of Manchester Central which have received assistance from the Warm Front Scheme[1] since its inception.

[1] The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme which begun in 1991 was rebranded to the Warm Front Scheme in 2000.

City of Manchester

	Households assisted
2000-01	1,518
2001-02	5,835
2002-03	3,180
2003-04	2,075
2004-05	1,838
2005-06	1,697
2006-07	2,353
2007-08	2,945
2008-09	2,496
2009-10[1]	2,302

[1] Up to the 28 February 2010.

Constituency of Manchester Central

	Households assisted
2000-01	281
2001-02	1,609
2002-03	750
2003-04	357
2004-05	329
2005-06	312
2006-07	414
2007-08	478
2008-09	412
2009-10[1]	653

[1] Up to the 28 February 2010.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Middle East Peace Process

17. **Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of prospects for negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. [325366]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We welcome the Quartet's determination to move swiftly to proximity talks addressing issues of substance. We continue to press both sides to show the courage, commitment and compromise needed to make real progress.

Overseas Operations: Financing

18. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effects of exchange rate movements on the work of his Department. [325367]

David Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 53WS.

21. **Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect of exchange rate movements on his Department's overseas activities. [325370]

David Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement to the House of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 53WS.

Belize: Economic Partnership Agreements

19. **Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the participation of Belize in EU economic partnership agreements; and if he will make a statement. [325368]

Chris Bryant: Belize is party to the Economic Partnership Agreement signed in October 2008 between the EU and 15 Caribbean states. This was the first EU regional trade agreement and is an excellent opportunity for increased competitiveness, development and economic integration in the region. We have not received representations about Belize's participation.

Moldova: EU Membership

20. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an official visit to Moldova to discuss its prospects for joining the EU. [325369]

Chris Bryant: I have no current plans to visit Moldova. We do actively encourage Moldova's closer integration with the EU and are providing expert assistance to Moldova as they negotiate a new Association Agreement.

Gaza Blockade

22. **Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Israeli authorities and his EU counterparts on the effects on the region of the blockade on Gaza. [325371]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The EU High Representative Catherine Ashton reported to the Foreign Affairs Council on 22 March on her recent visit to Gaza. The EU has made clear its concerns regarding the humanitarian situation and called for an immediate and unconditional opening of crossings.

Pakistan: Extradition

23. **Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Pakistani counterpart on extradition matters. [325372]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have had regular contact with the Government of Pakistan and discussed a range of issues important to both countries. Although I have had no recent discussions specifically on extradition matters, UK officials undertake regular meetings with their counterparts on extradition.

Tibet

24. **Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights record of the Government of China, with particular reference to Tibet. [325373]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our annual human rights report outlines our assessment of the current situation in Tibet. We remain very concerned about human rights there. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated these concerns, and the need for meaningful autonomy for Tibetan people, during his recent visit to China. This was also a key focus of our human rights dialogue.

Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the High Commission in Pakistan has taken to obtain consular access to Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh; and if he will make a statement. [325547]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our high commission in Islamabad has continued to make representations to the national and provincial authorities in Pakistan with regard to gaining consular access to Mr. Sheikh. The most recent diplomatic notes requesting access were submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in August 2009 and April 2010. High level requests for consular access to Mr. Sheikh have also been made by the former Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister with responsibility for consular matters, my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) during a visit to Pakistan in February 2009 and, along with other cases, by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary in a letter to Pakistani Foreign Minster Qureshi on 7 December 2009 which was delivered by our high commissioner. To date we have not received consular access to Mr Sheikh.

British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training his Department's staff receive on providing support and assistance to the families of British victims of murder abroad. [325399]

Chris Bryant: All front line consular staff abroad and in the UK are trained in the procedures they must follow when helping the family and friends of a British national who has died abroad. Particular attention is paid to the special circumstances affecting the family and friends of murder victims. Both their knowledge of what help we can provide and the skills they must use when dealing with individuals in difficult circumstances are tested to ensure all staff meet the required standard.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many smoking shelters his Department has built for its staff in the last five years; and at what cost. [324351]

Chris Bryant: Smoking shelters have been installed over the last five years on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) UK estate as follows:

	Smoking shelters installed
2005-06	None
2006-07	Two shelters for Hanslope Park purchased and installed at an approximate cost of £3,500 each
2007-08	None
2008-09	None purchased but one existing shelter at Hanslope Park moved to more appropriate location at a cost of approximately £1,000
2009-10	Four shelters purchased and installed at Hanslope Park, two at a cost of £5,765 each, one at a cost of £4,693 and one at a cost of £4,681

Shelters have been installed in line with the FCO's Smoking Policy which permits smoking in designated areas only, away from buildings.

The provision of this information for the overseas estate could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Food

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that the meat and dairy products procured by his Department and its non-departmental bodies are free range or produced to standards equivalent to those of the RSPCA Freedom Food scheme. [323063]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is fully committed to the Government Food Procurement Initiative. Within the UK we have engaged a catering contractor who is committed to animal welfare and is working with suppliers, clients and animal welfare organisations to promote the use of farm assurance schemes which achieve best practises in animal welfare. They fully endorse the Five Freedoms as set out by the Farm Animal Welfare Council. They have met with representatives of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Freedom Food and Compassion In World Farming to discuss ways they can improve animal welfare.

Where economically possible, our catering contractor purchases its products from approved free range suppliers. All fresh eggs supplied are free range.

While free range supplies are not always economically viable, all suppliers hold Farm Assurance Accreditation. To obtain this award our approved suppliers have to meet objectives such as farm animal management, environment and hygiene management, feed composition, housing and handling facilities, medicines and veterinary treatments and transport of livestock.

This information refers to the contracted catering service in the UK only. Provision of information globally could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account his Department's food procurement policy takes of animal welfare. [325530]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is fully committed to the Government Food Procurement Initiative. Within the UK we have engaged a Catering Contractor who is committed to animal welfare and is working with suppliers, clients and animal welfare organisations to promote the use of farm assurance schemes which achieve best practises in animal welfare. They fully endorse the Five Freedoms as set out by the Farm Animal Welfare Council. They have met with representatives of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Freedom Food and Compassion In World Farming to discuss ways they can improve animal welfare.

Where economically possible, our catering contractor purchases its products from approved free range suppliers. All suppliers hold Farm Assurance Accreditation. To obtain this award our approved suppliers have to meet objectives such as farm animal management, environment and hygiene management, feed composition, housing and handling facilities, medicines and veterinary treatments and transport of livestock.

This information refers to the contracted catering service in the UK only. Provision of information globally could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Passports

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the conclusions of the report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration of 24 March 2010, if he will review the provisions of his Department's contract with Abtran to provide a customer enquiry service in respect of passports handled on behalf of his Department; what assessment he has made of the conclusions of the report in respect of the adequacy of arrangements for handling passport applications by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [325291]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* We accept the findings of the report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration of 24 March 2010.

We have re-tendered the telephone passport inquiry handling contract and a new commercial partner is now in place to handle customer inquiries; we no longer use Abtran. Customers contact the new provider who will escalate their inquiry to the passport issuing post where necessary.

We agree that the service that was provided to the customer in early 2009 fell considerably short of what the customer should have expected. We had previously written to the applicant to apologise and will be writing again. We are arranging for prompt financial settlement and a further consolatory payment to be made as recommended in the ombudsman's report.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s passport operation is going through a period of considerable change in advance of integration with the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2011. We are committed to doing all we can to minimise the impact on customers as we move to a more cost effective and secure passport operation. The report highlighted weaknesses in our processes in our consulates in Paris and Amsterdam, and within consular directorate in the FCO. These have been reviewed and changes to procedures have been and are being implemented. This includes improvements to our public facing communication to ensure customers are kept informed in a timely, clear and consistent manner. Customer interests remain at the forefront of our analysis and our highest priority.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department has allocated for human rights programmes in financial year 2009-10. [325317]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) integrates human rights work across its objectives. This means that funding for human rights can be given through numerous programmes.

The FCO holds the Strategic Programme Fund for Human Rights and Democracy dedicated specifically to supporting human rights projects. In 2009-10, this fund allocated approximately £5.8 million to human rights and democracy projects around the world. Work was funded in support of equality, strengthening civil society, freedom of expression, abolition of torture and the death penalty, among other issues.

The FCO's 2009-10 programmes that fund human rights projects where these help to realise their core objectives include:

Strategic Programme Fund for Reuniting Europe (total programme value: £5.8 million);

Strategic Programme Fund for Counter-Terrorism and Radicalisation: £40 million;

Bilateral Programme Budgets: £27.5 million; and

the tri-departmental (FCO, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence) Conflict Pool (£171 million in 2009-10) that funds conflict prevention and stabilisation work also benefited human rights projects/objectives.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on his Department's overseas activities of recent exchange rate movements. [325362]

David Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement to the House of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 53WS.

Departmental Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the dates of publication of any regular statistics or reports by his Department have been affected by planning for the forthcoming general election. [323460]

Chris Bryant: On the announcement of a general election, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments on their activities during the pre-election period. This will be published on the Cabinet Office website.

Regular statistical releases and reports will continue to be issued and published during the election period on dates which have been pre-announced.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322648]

Chris Bryant: Measures to deter, prevent and detect theft are an essential feature of the Department's protective security controls. These controls reflect the standards set out in the HMG Security Policy Framework (SPF) issued by Cabinet Office and available online at:

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/spf.aspx

It would not be appropriate to provide details of specific controls as this could undermine their effectiveness.

India: Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to allocate additional funding for work to promote access to justice in Orissa state, India. [325318]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The pilot project to improve access to justice, by increasing awareness of citizens' rights and the capacity of lawyers to effectively pursue cases for victims of the communal violence in 2008 ran until 31 March 2010. We will assess its impact and, together with our EU partners, will continue to monitor the situation in Orissa including any appropriate follow-up action. The EU delegation reported the findings of their visit to Orissa to the EU with recommendations for further areas for follow up including on access to justice. The delegation also raised the issue with appropriate state authorities during their visit to Orissa and with the Indian Government during the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue meeting on 25 March 2010. While acknowledging evidence of progress in some key areas including the setting up of two fast track courts, the EU side also identified areas for future action, on access to justice for victims of the violence, to assist in the reconciliation process.

The pilot project funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to promote access to justice in Orissa ran until 31 March 2010. We will now assess its impact and consider appropriate follow-up action such as additional funding. We will also continue to monitor progress on delivery of access to justice for the victims of violence in Orissa.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the pilot project funded by his Department to promote access to justice in Orissa state, India. [325319]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The pilot project to improve access to justice, by increasing awareness of citizens' rights and the capacity of lawyers to effectively pursue cases for victims of the communal violence in 2008 ran until 31 March 2010. We will assess its impact and, together with our EU partners, will continue to monitor the situation in Orissa including any appropriate follow-up action. The EU delegation reported the findings of their visit to Orissa to the EU with recommendations for further areas for follow up including on access to justice. The delegation also raised the issue with appropriate state authorities during their visit to Orissa and with the Indian Government during the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue meeting on 25 March 2010. While acknowledging evidence of progress in some key areas including the setting up of two fast track courts, the EU side also identified areas for future action, on access to justice for victims of the violence, to assist in the reconciliation process.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 21 January 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton regarding Mr. H. Zadron. [322724]

David Miliband: I replied to my right hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Gorton on 26 March.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 21 January 2010 with regard to Mr H. H. Zadron, transferred from the Home Office. [325126]

David Miliband: I replied to my right hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Gorton on 26 March.

Nepal: Religious Freedom

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to encourage the Government of Nepal to enshrine protections for religious freedom consistent with Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in that country's new constitution. [325341]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We regularly raise with the Government and political parties of Nepal the importance of ensuring that the new constitution is fully in line with Nepal's commitments under international human rights treaties. The Constituent Assembly Committee for Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles has proposed that the new Nepalese constitution should provide that no person

"should convert a person from one religion to another"

which would be in contravention of article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The constitution drafting process remains ongoing. We will continue to raise protections for religious freedom with the Government and political parties of Nepal.

Palestinians: Economic Situation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the level of support given by the Government of Israel to the economy in the West Bank; and if he will make a statement. [324396]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

Although there are no specific reports on the level of support given by Israel to improve the economy in the West Bank, regular updates provided by the Office of the Quartet Representative and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs give some information.

Israel has relaxed a number of restrictions on access in the last few months, including increased opening hours at certain crossing points, the removal of some earth mounds, and allowing Arab Israelis to visit the West Bank city of Jenin. The pilot project to keep the Allenby bridge crossing into Jordan open until midnight is expected to continue.

Such moves have complemented the significant levels of donor support to drive growth in the West Bank economy. Despite these improvements, movement and access into and within the West Bank remains seriously restricted, and further easing is essential to help the Palestinian economy grow.

St. Helena: Wrecks

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the effects on the health and safety of residents of St. Helena caused by oil leaks from RFA Darkdale after its sinking in James Bay; and if he will make a statement. [325670]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for the health and safety of residents of St. Helena rests with the Government of St. Helena who hold the requested information.

Tibet: Politics and Government

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will establish a mechanism to monitor progress in the talks on Tibet between the Government of China and the Dalai Lama. [325815]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We, alongside our EU counterparts, will continue to monitor progress on the dialogue. We urge all sides to maintain dialogue in good faith. This is the only way to achieving lasting stability and prosperity in Tibet.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2010, *Official Report,* column 116W, on Western Sahara: human rights, what matters relating to human rights were included in Christopher Ross's briefing of the Security Council on 18 February 2010. [325107]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ambassador Ross's briefing to the UN Security Council of 18 February included some background on a recent exchange of allegations between the parties over human rights.

The issue of whether to include human rights monitoring in the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara mandate was raised by Security Council members during the discussions that followed Ross's briefing.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request HM Ambassador in Rabat to raise with the Moroccan authorities the case of Rachid Sghir, a Saharawi human rights activist. [325113]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This is the first inquiry we have received about the case of Rachid Sghir. UK based media reporting alleges he was mistreated by the Moroccan police after speaking to the BBC. We have had no further reporting on this case.

Officials at our embassy in Rabat will continue to monitor the human rights situation in the disputed territory of Western Sahara and raise our concerns with the Moroccan authorities through our regular dialogue and in partnership with our EU colleagues.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324973]

Mr. Michael Foster: In the last two years the Department for International Development has installed voltage optimisers in both of our UK offices. There are two 1,250 kVa units in our London office (installed March 2008), and a 560 kVa unit in our East Kilbride office (installed March 2009).

Analysis of electricity consumption in the London office indicated an annual 14.2 per cent. reduction in total electricity consumption, which was largely attributable to this equipment. Early analysis shows that there has been a reduction in electricity use in our East Kilbride office, of between 5.2 per cent. and 6.4 per cent.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in current prices. [324797]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold central records on the cost of individual press officers and this information could not be gathered for the years specified without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325194]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has received no such complaints during the last three years.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325212]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 806W, on departmental internet.

Developing Countries: Roads

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on road safety projects in developing countries in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [325024]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is unable to provide this information without incurring disproportionate costs.

Haiti: Earthquakes

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what equipment was used by UK fire and rescue personnel deployed in Haiti after the recent earthquake; and if he will make a statement. [325236]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 5 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1415W on Haiti: Earthquakes.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development who carried out the four airlifts of relief supplies to Haiti on behalf of his Department following the earthquake in that country; and if he will make a statement. [325268]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) followed an emergency tender process with two suppliers before using Air Charter Service to procure aircraft for the airlift of relief supplies to Haiti.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to each *(a)* multi-national and *(b)* UK non-governmental organisation for the purpose of providing assistance in Haiti. [325269]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 5 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1415W, on Haiti: Earthquakes.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many British firefighters took part in the recent relief efforts in Haiti. [325598]

Mr. Michael Foster: 64 firefighters from the UK fire and rescue service deployed to Haiti to take part in search and rescue efforts, along with two search dogs. They pulled three people alive from the rubble.

India: Politics and Government

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of his Department's work in Orissa state, India, on *(a)* inter-communal relations and *(b)* the socio-economic status of all religious, caste, tribal and linguistic groups in the area. [325340]

Mr. Michael Foster: The purpose of DFID's aid to Orissa is to reduce poverty in the state. We have not, therefore, carried out an assessment of the impact of

our programmes on inter-communal relations. However, all our programmes have a clear focus on supporting marginalised groups to gain greater access to development and economic opportunities.

DFID's support to the Government of Orissa aims to improve health and nutritional outcomes, support improved governance and improve the incomes and livelihoods of the poor. We regularly review our programmes to track their impact on Adivasis and Dalits, compared to the general population. Evidence shows that our work is having an impact. For example, the Orissa Tribal Empowerment Programme has benefited more than 50,000 Dalit and Adivasi households: 40 per cent. of these report a 50 per cent. increase in income, and 80 per cent. show an increase in food security and livelihood assets.

Kenya: Family Planning

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure adequate reproductive health and access to reproductive rights in Kenya, with particular reference to family planning and safe abortion services; and if he will make a statement. [325345]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development's (DFID) Essential Health Services programme in Kenya is improving the quality of maternal and neonatal health services for 2.2 million poor Kenyans in rural areas. The support has increased the number of births at which a skilled birth attendant was present from 23 per cent. to 32 per cent. between 2006 and 2009.

DFID is supporting advocacy for safe motherhood and safe abortion through Kenya White Ribbon Alliance. We have helped increase access to modern contraceptive methods through the social marketing of family planning commodities such as oral contraceptives. DFID distributed 195 million condoms between 2002 and 2009. DFID support from 2009 to 2015 will avert 770,800 unwanted pregnancies in Kenya.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has undertaken costings of the policies of the *(a)* Conservative Party and *(b)* Liberal Democrat Party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months. [324241]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not investigated the cost of policies presented by the Conservative party, the Liberal Democrats or any other Opposition party.

Overseas Aid: Maternity Services

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the additional £100 million to cut maternal deaths which the Government committed to at the Women Deliver conference in October 2007 has been provided to the United Nations Population Fund. [325549]

Mr. Michael Foster: All of the £100 million announced at the Women Deliver conference in 2007 was committed to the United Nations Population fund (UNFPA) Global Reproductive Health Commodity Security Programme. The programme supports governments in Africa and in South Asia to provide more contraception services and better health care and advice for girls, women and men who really need it. To date £25 million has been transferred to UNFPA as per the agreed payment schedule.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received on alleged restrictions imposed by Hamas on the activities of humanitarian non-governmental organisations operating in Gaza. [325659]

Mr. Michael Foster: Department for International Development (DFID) officials are in regular contact with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the UN and other donors about this issue. We assess that international NGOs and other humanitarian actors are generally able to carry out humanitarian activities, and that they have been able to successfully rebuff isolated attempts by elements of Hamas to interfere with aid delivery. However, we remain concerned that increasingly close scrutiny and accumulation of minor restrictions on NGO activity by Hamas will have the effect of impeding ongoing humanitarian aid. We will continue to support efforts by humanitarian agencies to protect their ability to assist Gazan civilians on the basis of need.

St Helena: Wrecks

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will assist the St Helena government in removing the fuel, oil and ammunition from RFA Darkdale after its sinking in James Bay, St Helena; and if he will make a statement. [325668]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides financial and technical assistance to the St. Helena Government to allow it to manage its own affairs. We have recently agreed a budget of up to £26.15 million for St. Helena for financial year 2010-11. This did not include any additional assistance for removing the fuel, oil and ammunition from RFA Darkdale.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received on the humanitarian situation in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [325025]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) receives regular reports from the United Nations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). We are particularly concerned about the humanitarian situation in Darfur and southern Sudan.

In Darfur, despite recent progress on peace talks between the Government and rebel groups, fighting has continued between the Sudanese armed forces and a faction of the Sudanese Liberation Army rebel group in the Jebel Mara region. This will have humanitarian consequences for civilians. We continue to urge both sides to immediately cease hostilities and allow access to the area by humanitarian agencies.

In southern Sudan inter-tribal violence which displaced 390,000 people during 2009 has continued. Poor rains and high prices are fuelling food shortages. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) report that 1.6 million people face acute food shortages in 2010, and a total of 4.3 million people will be food insecure this year.

The UK is the largest European bilateral donor to Sudan, providing some £50 million in humanitarian support this year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Welfare: Arrests

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests there have been for offences in connection with animal welfare in North Shropshire since 1997. [325422]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

The offence in connection with animal welfare is not a notifiable offence and does not form part of this collection.

Asylum: Standards

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time was between a person claiming asylum on arrival in the UK and a final decision being made on their application in the latest period for which figures are available. [323021]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The public service agreement (PSA) Delivery Agreement 3, Indicator 2 refers to the reduction in the time to conclusion of asylum application. The measure is to ensure a target percentage of cases should be resolved within six months.

The method of reporting against the target is based on the performance of the specific monthly cohort of cases reaching six months. Hence all reporting is done against a six-month timeframe. A cohort is specified as those new applications received between 1 and 31 of each month.

The conclusion measurement requires applications to be granted asylum or some form of leave to remain in the UK, allowed at appeal or removed within 182 days (six months) to be counted as concluded.

Performance against the targets has been published in National Statistics as follows:

61 per cent. of new applications received in June 2009 were concluded in six months by the end of December 2009.

Published information is not available in relation to conclusion of applications in timescales other than six months.

British Nationality

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will reinstate the telephone line for people to request British nationality application forms. [322992]

Mr. Woolas: The contract for despatching applications forms in response to telephone requests expires on 31 March 2010. There are no plans to renew it. Forms and guides are available from the UK Border Agency website.

British Nationality: Assessments

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each *(a)* age group and *(b)* nationality passed the British citizenship test in each month of 2009. [303820]

Mr. Woolas: The Knowledge of Life (KOL) requirement was introduced in November 2005 for citizenship applications. In April 2007, the Home Office extended the KOL test to those applying for settlement in the UK. In 2009, 193,645 applications for British citizenship were made.

A breakdown of this information has been placed in the House Library.

Burglary: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the number of burglaries in Shropshire. [325416]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Tackling burglary is the responsibility of local community safety partnerships.

During 2009-10 the Government have supported the work of community safety partnerships by investing £15 million in the Securing Homes: Action Against Burglary programme to prevent and tackle burglary across England and Wales. The elements of the programme which included Shropshire included:

free burglary information and advice packs for victims of burglary and their immediate neighbours;

a campaign to raise awareness of how to avoid becoming a victim of distraction burglary;

new partnerships with the National Union of Students and Age UK to target advice appropriately at those most at risk of or concerned about burglary.

The Home Office also ran a national publicity campaign Don't Advertise Your Stuff to Thieves earlier this year drawing the public's attention to the simple steps they could take to avoid becoming victims of burglary.

We are also keeping pressure on prolific and persistent burglars through offender-based interventions such as the Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP) and the Prolific and Priority Offender (PPO) programme and Integrated Offender Management (IOM). PPO and DIP are in place in every local authority area in England and Wales and IOM approaches are being adopted across the country.

Shropshire are currently in the process of setting up a local IOM pilot.

Community Safety Accreditation Schemes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which local authority and police force areas *(a)* local authority employees and *(b)* private companies have been authorised to issue fixed penalty notices under the Community Safety Accreditation scheme. [324777]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office only holds information on police forces that operate the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS). The Home Office does not collect information on the local authority areas in which CSAS operates. Nor does it collect information on the local authorities and private companies in which police forces have granted employees the power to issue fixed penalty notices under CSAS. The decision as to which employees are granted powers is for individual police forces that operate CSAS.

However, the Home Office conducted a national audit of CSAS in 2009 which found that the following police forces had designated accredited persons with the power to issue fixed penalty notices. Avon and Somerset constabulary and British Transport police have designated the power to issue penalty notices for disorder, but not fixed penalty notices.

Cheshire
Cleveland
Devon and Cornwall
Durham
Gwent
Hampshire
Hertfordshire
Kent
Lancashire
Leicestershire
Norfolk
Northamptonshire
Nottinghamshire
Suffolk
Warwickshire
West Mercia
West Midlands

Convictions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 16, (ii) between 16 and 19, (iii) between 20 and 25, (iv) between 26 and 30, (v) between 31 and 40, (vi) between 41 and 50, (vii) between 51 and 60 and (viii) over 60 years have been (A) cautioned, (B) proceeded against and (C) issued with a penalty notice for disorder for being drunk and disorderly in each police force area in the last 12 months. [325281]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information showing the number of offenders cautioned for offences of being drunk and disorderly, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008 (latest available) can be found in Tables one and two. The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for these offences are given in Tables three and four. The number of offenders issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND) can be viewed in Tables 5 and 6.

Cautions, court proceedings, and PND data for 2009 are planned for publication in the autumn 2010.

Table 1: Number of males cautioned for offences of drunk and disorderly[1], by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[2, 3, 4]

	Age								
Police force area	*10-15*	*16-19*	*20-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-60*	*61 and over*	*All ages*
Avon and Somerset	3	25	19	16	18	7	4	1	93
Bedfordshire	—	—	3	3	4	4	2	1	17
Cheshire	10	23	8	5	9	4	1	2	62
City of London	—	1	5	5	5	1	—	—	17
Cleveland	3	13	3	6	1	1	2	2	33
Cumbria	4	45	19	10	3	4	1	2	90
Derbyshire	2	8	5	3	3	1	1	—	23
Devon and Cornwall	14	76	62	23	56	44	17	8	302
Dorset	4	10	11	3	—	2	—	—	30
Durham	4	27	14	4	8	4	—	—	61
Essex	3	18	13	9	13	7	1	3	67
Gloucestershire	—	12	8	3	1	1	2	—	27
Greater Manchester	5	9	12	7	9	10	5	4	61
Hampshire	5	33	19	6	11	5	3	—	82
Hertfordshire	2	5	6	2	6	4	3	—	26
Humberside	1	5	4	1	1	1	—	—	13
Kent	6	21	6	12	12	7	3	1	68
Lancashire	15	87	54	33	42	19	9	9	268
Leicestershire	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Merseyside	9	52	103	45	31	32	6	6	304
Metropolitan Police	2	116	439	263	354	220	87	36	1,568
Norfolk	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
North Yorkshire	4	25	11	4	8	6	3	4	63
Northamptonshire	—	5	13	3	9	5	—	2	37
Northumbria	58	174	131	73	76	53	18	17	598
South Yorkshire	10	10	7	4	5	2	—	1	44
Staffordshire	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	—	13
Suffolk	—	3	2	1	3	2	1	1	13
Surrey	1	2	5	3	6	3	4	1	28
Sussex	12	32	30	25	40	32	24	5	203
Thames Valley	2	12	13	7	11	8	4	2	59

Table 1: Number of males cautioned for offences of drunk and disorderly[1], by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[2, 3, 4]

	Age								
Police force area	*10-15*	*16-19*	*20-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-60*	*61 and over*	*All ages*
Warwickshire	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
West Mercia	4	48	63	30	29	13	8	1	196
West Midlands	7	62	84	29	34	14	8	4	242
West Yorkshire	27	117	118	48	81	50	22	5	468
Wiltshire	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Dyfed-Powys	4	17	11	5	10	8	3	2	60
Gwent	10	71	63	23	30	19	3	3	222
North Wales	8	18	14	8	8	5	8	2	71
South Wales	6	14	11	7	3	4	1	—	46
Total	256	1,202	1,430	729	982	605	255	125	5,584

[1] Includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises.
Licensing Act 1872 Sec 12;
Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour.
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These are included in the totals.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Number of females cautioned for offences of drunk and disorderly[1], by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[2, 3, 4]

	Age								
Police force area	*10-15*	*16-19*	*20-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-60*	*61 and over*	*All ages*
Avon and Somerset	5	11	3	2	2	3	2	—	28
Bedfordshire	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Cheshire	2	13	2	2	4	3	2	—	28
Cleveland	4	7	1	—	4	1	1	—	18
Cumbria	9	27	8	1	2	2	—	—	49
Derbyshire	8	7	1	—	5	1	—	—	22
Devon and Cornwall	17	39	25	16	21	17	11	—	146
Dorset	3	3	2	4	—	2	—	—	14
Durham	11	14	5	4	6	1	1	—	42
Essex	1	11	4	3	3	7	—	—	29
Gloucestershire	—	3	3	—	4	—	—	—	10
Greater Manchester	10	10	2	1	3	3	1	—	30
Hampshire	7	13	7	3	10	5	3	—	48
Hertfordshire	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	5
Humberside	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Kent	9	6	3	2	1	3	1	1	26
Lancashire	23	34	27	9	14	15	4	1	127
Leicestershire	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Merseyside	8	10	9	6	9	4	1	1	48
Metropolitan Police	3	26	76	38	61	44	11	3	262
Norfolk	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
North Yorkshire	6	7	8	4	4	4	—	—	33
Northamptonshire	—	3	1	—	2	—	—	—	6
Northumbria	68	80	28	10	28	13	1	2	230
South Yorkshire	9	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	14
Staffordshire	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	5
Suffolk	1	1	—	1	2	3	—	—	8
Surrey	—	4	4	—	—	2	—	—	10
Sussex	16	15	5	1	10	10	5	3	65
Thames Valley	5	4	5	1	3	2	1	—	21
West Mercia	6	16	16	3	8	11	1	—	61
West Midlands	12	18	15	9	11	10	1	—	76
West Yorkshire	38	62	37	21	35	21	2	2	218
Wiltshire	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Dyfed-Powys	3	5	4	2	1	1	—	—	16
Gwent	7	16	19	9	8	10	3	1	73
North Wales	6	11	5	1	3	2	1	—	29

Table 2: Number of females cautioned for offences of drunk and disorderly[1], by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[2, 3, 4]

	Age								
Police force area	*10-15*	*16-19*	*20-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-60*	*61 and over*	*All ages*
South Wales	5	6	5	2	—	5	2	2	27
Total	308	491	331	156	268	209	56	16	1,835

[1] Includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises.
Licensing Act 1872 Sec 12;
Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour.
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These are included in the totals.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 3: Number of males proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of drunk and disorderly[1], by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[2, 3, 4]

	Age								
Police force area	*10-15*	*16-19*	*20-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-60*	*61 and over*	*all ages*
Avon and Somerset	3	27	44	19	48	33	33	23	230
Bedfordshire	—	5	9	9	20	5	9	1	58
Cambridgeshire	—	5	12	12	44	49	16	12	150
Cheshire	11	55	59	39	54	60	15	4	297
City of London	—	1	7	5	8	10	3	1	35
Cleveland	9	49	75	30	51	33	11	—	258
Cumbria	10	84	92	34	60	45	11	10	346
Derbyshire	10	42	60	28	54	36	14	11	255
Devon and Cornwall	11	104	140	112	204	165	66	14	816
Dorset	4	19	32	19	39	22	10	5	150
Durham	14	64	39	18	28	22	13	—	198
Essex	3	27	19	19	40	37	11	2	158
Gloucestershire	2	10	18	10	19	7	3	—	69
Greater Manchester	18	105	153	79	123	89	20	6	593
Hampshire	3	67	139	40	77	71	17	12	426
Hertfordshire	—	7	15	4	21	16	13	3	79
Humberside	2	10	15	10	17	8	1	—	63
Kent	15	52	69	30	86	89	27	3	371
Lancashire	30	189	226	106	180	136	37	9	913
Leicestershire	—	10	7	2	11	12	1	—	43
Lincolnshire	—	14	23	6	31	20	3	1	98
Merseyside	14	164	324	136	387	290	70	25	1,410
Metropolitan Police	5	48	138	111	308	252	89	24	975
Norfolk	5	31	53	16	60	35	13	1	214
North Yorkshire	7	42	83	46	60	54	27	4	323
Northamptonshire	1	9	17	5	14	9	3	1	59
Northumbria	70	675	916	382	470	314	126	20	2,973
Nottinghamshire	5	25	43	37	69	35	7	2	223
South Yorkshire	16	91	196	108	150	103	28	15	707
Staffordshire	1	49	48	31	39	55	12	5	240
Suffolk	—	3	4	4	8	3	6	1	29
Surrey	1	13	33	31	47	43	13	4	185
Sussex	10	70	74	54	108	89	33	15	453
Thames Valley	3	25	50	10	29	54	21	4	196
Warwickshire	—	17	22	6	18	8	3	1	75
West Mercia	4	89	90	50	49	40	14	5	341
West Midlands	8	129	267	162	303	206	80	15	1,170
West Yorkshire	27	196	318	177	278	219	88	21	1,324
Wiltshire	2	6	8	7	16	35	6	10	90
Dyfed-Powys	1	21	25	21	33	24	11	9	145
Gwent	4	49	70	37	56	43	12	6	277
North Wales	7	41	51	19	42	25	14	—	199
South Wales	—	27	37	25	24	24	22	5	164

Table 3: Number of males proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of drunk and disorderly[1], by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[2, 3, 4]

	Age								
Police force area	*10-15*	*16-19*	*20-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-60*	*61 and over*	*all ages*
Total	336	2,766	4,120	2,106	3,783	2,925	1,032	310	17,378

[1] Includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises.
Licensing Act 1872 Sec 12:
Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour.
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are use.
4 Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 4: Number of females proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of drunk and disorderly[1], by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[2, 3, 4]

	Age								
Police force area	*10-15*	*16-19*	*20-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-60*	*61 and over*	*all ages*
Avon and Somerset	3	8	2	3	7	2	1	1	27
Bedfordshire	1	2	—	—	1	2	1	—	7
Cambridgeshire	—	1	1	1	6	8	3	—	20
Cheshire	3	9	7	8	25	15	—	2	69
City of London	—	—	1	2	2	1	—	—	6
Cleveland	2	18	11	9	23	4	1	1	69
Cumbria	6	30	14	6	25	13	5	—	99
Derbyshire	3	9	9	3	3	5	1	—	33
Devon and Cornwall	8	30	22	22	24	32	4	—	142
Dorset	—	3	6	—	5	6	—	—	20
Durham	5	18	12	3	8	5	1	—	52
Essex	2	3	8	4	8	10	1	—	36
Gloucestershire	—	1	2	1	1	2	—	—	7
Greater Manchester	3	9	16	9	14	13	1	1	66
Hampshire	8	15	9	6	18	8	7	—	71
Hertfordshire	—	2	—	1	1	1	6	—	11
Humberside	1	4	3	1	2	3	—	1	15
Kent	7	15	6	6	17	22	5	—	78
Lancashire	15	69	20	21	43	31	7	—	206
Leicestershire	—	1	—	1	2	2	—	—	6
Lincolnshire	—	—	3	—	3	3	—	—	9
Merseyside	4	41	36	30	82	62	14	—	269
Metropolitan Police	2	6	8	9	16	14	7	—	62
Norfolk	—	2	10	2	7	7	—	—	28
North Yorkshire	3	17	12	4	23	13	4	—	76
Northamptonshire	—	3	1	—	2	2	—	—	8
Northumbria	65	145	106	65	98	43	28	4	554
Nottinghamshire	—	7	6	5	5	9	—	—	32
South Yorkshire	14	21	25	23	22	33	4	—	142
Staffordshire	2	6	9	3	2	26	3	1	52
Suffolk	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	5
Surrey	—	5	3	1	3	15	1	3	31
Sussex	3	16	7	9	20	23	3	2	83
Thames Valley	—	6	11	2	6	5	2	—	32
Warwickshire	1	2	2	1	2	1	—	—	9
West Mercia	2	11	8	3	8	17	1	—	50
West Midlands	5	30	36	21	27	28	5	—	152
West Yorkshire	19	42	45	29	60	39	9	1	244
Wiltshire	—	2	—	—	2	4	3	—	11
Dyfed-Powys	—	3	6	2	5	14	1	—	31
Gwent	3	8	7	2	8	12	11	—	51
North Wales	1	11	9	3	10	10	2	—	46
South Wales	2	9	5	3	3	4	1	—	27

Table 4: Number of females proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of drunk and disorderly[1], by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[2, 3, 4]

	Age								
Police force area	*10-15*	*16-19*	*20-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-60*	*61 and over*	*all ages*
Total	193	641	505	326	649	570	143	17	3,044

[1] Includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises.
Licensing Act 1872 Sec 12;
Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour.
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are use.
4 Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 5: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to males for offences of drunk and disorderly, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3]

	Age							
Police Force Area	*16-19*	*20-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-60*	*61 & over*	*All ages*
Avon and Somerset	52	82	25	32	20	6	2	219
Bedfordshire	21	49	20	29	19	4	2	144
British Transport police	59	147	123	195	127	53	14	718
Cambridgeshire	62	95	67	77	44	14	6	365
Cheshire	100	211	87	87	42	20	3	550
Cleveland	257	463	163	174	99	33	9	1,198
Cumbria	69	139	55	70	36	13	7	389
Derbyshire	157	191	77	85	35	17	5	567
Devon and Cornwall	207	317	135	100	61	23	10	853
Dorset	53	74	28	24	12	6	—	197
Durham	192	295	103	99	57	12	5	763
Dyfed Powys	41	56	34	34	22	13	4	204
Essex	50	119	56	56	33	14	4	332
Gloucestershire	26	42	20	21	6	7	2	124
Greater Manchester	130	223	106	108	73	23	7	670
Gwent	62	80	28	23	8	2	—	203
Hampshire	119	168	52	58	51	7	4	459
Hertfordshire	61	71	27	25	21	9	4	218
Humberside	112	181	74	75	47	5	3	497
Kent	393	642	264	320	167	50	24	1,860
Lancashire	1,116	1,458	574	666	390	100	27	4,331
Leicestershire	49	120	63	61	30	10	1	334
Lincolnshire	11	34	12	18	10	2	—	87
London, City of	5	51	34	29	22	1	1	143
Merseyside	843	1,325	522	618	439	120	47	3,914
Metropolitan	321	823	525	700	400	138	54	2,961
Norfolk	71	153	59	80	30	7	3	403
North Wales	128	182	74	70	51	13	6	524
North Yorkshire	179	247	95	96	58	14	5	694
Northamptonshire	56	74	40	40	20	3	1	234
Northumbria	887	1,493	619	587	349	98	23	4,056
Nottinghamshire	120	183	72	74	32	8	—	489
South Wales	37	36	21	31	18	5	2	150
South Yorkshire	559	805	306	322	174	39	14	2,219
Staffordshire	102	144	67	73	44	14	4	448
Suffolk	12	10	5	1	4	1	2	35
Surrey	45	66	39	39	43	20	2	254
Sussex	211	367	145	147	85	32	9	996
Thames Valley	66	123	38	50	25	15	5	322
Warwickshire	24	21	16	12	8	4	1	86
West Mercia	125	173	54	49	25	2	4	432
West Midlands	646	991	431	394	259	73	17	2,811
West Yorkshire	309	476	212	191	107	37	6	1,338
Wiltshire	68	85	40	45	29	8	4	279

Table 5: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to males for offences of drunk and disorderly, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3]

	Age							
Police Force Area	*16-19*	*20-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-60*	*61 & over*	*All ages*
Total	8,213	13,085	5,607	6,085	3,632	1,095	353	38,070

[1] The penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme was implemented in all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Centrally available PND data are published at age 16 and over.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice.

Table 6: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to females for offences of drunk and disorderly, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3]

	Age							
Police Force Area	*16-19*	*20-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-60*	*61 & over*	*All ages*
Avon and Somerset	12	7	4	4	3	2	1	33
Bedfordshire	3	3	2	5	2	2	1	18
British Transport police	18	15	20	23	16	2	—	94
Cambridgeshire	4	12	7	11	14	2	—	50
Cheshire	14	37	32	21	15	4	1	124
Cleveland	78	90	40	59	32	10	—	309
Cumbria	20	27	7	22	14	4	—	94
Derbyshire	36	28	18	22	14	7	—	125
Devon and Cornwall	39	50	15	43	25	4	1	177
Dorset	10	8	6	3	5	1	—	33
Durham	38	54	28	31	18	4	—	173
Dyfed Powys	6	11	7	7	6	5	—	42
Essex	9	19	4	15	13	6	—	66
Gloucestershire	4	6	4	3	6	1	—	24
Greater Manchester	45	44	21	22	24	4	—	160
Gwent	7	7	0	6	5	—	—	25
Hampshire	27	14	4	20	5	3	2	75
Hertfordshire	8	17	6	7	5	2	—	45
Humberside	20	29	7	19	7	3	1	88
Kent	89	86	38	60	68	16	1	358
Lancashire	257	261	97	207	110	22	4	958
Leicestershire	8	18	9	9	7	1	—	52
Lincolnshire	5	4	3	5	1	—	—	18
London, City of	0	4	7	3	1	—	—	15
Merseyside	212	230	116	192	119	23	3	895
Metropolitan	64	121	75	126	92	17	5	500
Norfolk	13	16	9	9	9	2	—	58
North Wales	28	27	14	15	15	6	1	106
North Yorkshire	32	46	22	23	15	2	—	140
Northamptonshire	12	7	3	7	6	—	—	35
Northumbria	238	339	133	177	104	32	3	1,026
Nottinghamshire	19	25	5	17	16	3	1	86
South Wales	5	8	4	8	1	1	—	27
South Yorkshire	112	132	70	77	53	11	—	455
Staffordshire	19	25	15	15	15	5	—	94
Suffolk	1	1	0	1	2	2	—	7
Surrey	15	12	5	11	12	1	1	57
Sussex	47	53	20	41	21	12	1	195
Thames Valley	7	8	4	12	9	—	—	40
Warwickshire	3	5	2	2	2	—	—	14
West Mercia	17	17	7	11	6	3	—	61
West Midlands	123	132	59	78	50	12	3	457
West Yorkshire	80	97	33	52	46	12	—	320
Wiltshire	18	8	8	8	7	1	—	50
Total	1,822	2,160	990	1,509	1,016	252	30	7,779

[1] The penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme was implemented in all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Centrally available PND data are published at age 16 and over.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice.

Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* drug dealers, *(b)* people dealing in counterfeit currency and *(c)* people dealing in counterfeit goods in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [317772]

Alan Johnson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in respect of a previous question on 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 997W.

Crime Prevention

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has undertaken into the relationship between levels of spending on police and crime rates; and if he will make a statement. [324137]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office has supported a number of research projects concerning the impact of police resourcing and deployment on crime rates. These have included the impact of police force funding, undertaken in collaboration with Professor Ben Vollaard of the university of Tilburg (Tilburg Law and Economics Centre Discussion Paper DP 2009-012), the impact of the Street Crime Initiative, undertaken by Professor Steve Machin (and Olivier Marie) of the London School of Economics (LSE Centre for Economic Performance Discussion Paper No. 680), and the effect of police redeployment following the 7/7 terror attacks, also by Professor Machin (and colleagues) (LSE Centre for Economic Performance Discussion Paper No. 852). These research projects have found that increases in police resources, both generally and targeted, have been associated with reductions in crime rates, in line with the recent international academic literature on the topic.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department and its agencies have spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324441]

Mr. Woolas: In common with many organisations my Department provides various facilities to support staff fitness. Information on the cost of these facilities is not held separately.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324559]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department provides accommodation for gym facilities at 2 Marsham street, but does not provide a cash subsidy for staff.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324679]

Mr. Woolas: My Department's accounts do not itemise this level of information.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will issue guidance on his Department's policy on the relocation offshore of departmental jobs to companies bidding for contracts let by his Department. [324791]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department has no policy on the relocation offshore of departmental jobs and has no plans to issue any guidance to companies bidding for contracts let by the Department.

Departmental Data Protection

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to each *(a)* database and *(b)* ICT system run by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [317830]

Alan Johnson: The Department does not comment on issues relating to possible breaches of the UK's national security.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in real terms. [324805]

Mr. Woolas: The cost of press officers employed between March 2009 and February 2010 was £1,795,888.92. The Home Office do not employ media officers and do not hold records of press or media officers employed in the financial year 1996-97; our records do not go back that far.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department and its agencies incurred expenditure on advertising via Google Adwords in the latest year for which figures are available. [324624]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office and its agencies have spent a total of £401,724 on advertising via Google Adwords in 2009-10.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325195]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has received 1,053 pieces of feedback from site users since 2008. This comprises a range of comment such as requests for further information, queries about content, reports of broken links and suggestions for new content. We do not have the information to be able to breakdown this feedback to identify specific complaints regarding difficulties in using the website.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325213]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office website, www.homeoffice.gov.uk last underwent a major redesign in 2005. It subsequently underwent a minor redesign in 2008 to incorporate new corporate branding following the machinery of government change to create Ministry of Justice.

Costs spent on design consultants for the external website in the last three years were:

	Spent (£)
2007-08	50,000
2008-09	0
2009-10	0

Departmental Legal Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent in *(a)* legal fees and *(b)* compensation on legal cases concerning remuneration of its employees in each of the last 10 years. [322062]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office (excluding its agencies) does not maintain a central record of how much has been spent on legal fees or compensation specifically relating to legal cases concerning remuneration of its employees. Therefore the information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many performance reviews were undertaken in respect of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; in how many cases performance was rated as unsatisfactory or below; how many staff left as a direct result of such a rating; and what percentage of full-time equivalent staff this represented. [313829]

Mr. Woolas: All permanent staff of the Home Office should receive a performance review each year. In 2008-09 just over 24,000 staff received a review. Staff are assessed against their objectives and, where improvement in performance is needed, that will be reflected in their development plan. In 2008-09 and 2007-08 just over 150 staff were marked as unsatisfactory overall. But in addition many staff receiving satisfactory markings would also have specific areas for improvement.

No accurate figures are available for earlier years. And it is not possible to relate the numbers leaving in any year directly to the numbers marked as unsatisfactory.

Total number of unsatisfactory performance assessment markings

	HO HQ and UKBA	*IPS*	*CRB*
2004-05	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2005-06	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2006-07	[1]—	20	[1]—
2007-08	139	15	[1]—
2008-09	132	19	[1]—

[1] No information available.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department and its agencies spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what those items were. [324715]

Mr. Woolas: The amount spent on promotional items carrying the Departments and its agencies branding and logo in the last five years is as follows:

Home Office and UK Border Agency

The requested information is not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Figures for the Identity and Passport Agency and Criminal Records Bureau are shown in the following tables.

Identity and Passport Agency

		Amount (£)
2008	Promotional stationary for the UK Passport Service for Five Nations Passport Issuers Conference	2,437
2009	Idsmart pens and plastic oyster card wallets	3,927
2010	General Register Office mousemats	1,779.62

Criminal Records Bureau

		Amount (£)
28 March 2006	1,200 black pens with CRB contact information	445.00
10 May 2006	1,200 black pens with CRB contact information	445.00
4 September 2008	30 crystal pyramids and 1,000 black pens with CRB logo	839.00
10 November 2008	30 crystal pyramids and 1,000 black pens with CRB logo	865.60
19 March 2009	4,000 black pens and 4,000 a4 card folders with CRB logo	4,883.00
27 January 2010	1,200 desk calendars with CRB logo	997.50
27 January 2010	CRB image bank costs	475.00

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what *(a)* the cost and *(b)* purpose of each such event was. [324658]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office systems (and those of its agencies) do not separately identify the cost of individual hospitality events from overall hospitality costs. This information could be provided at only disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 521W, what the name is of each underspent project; and what the monetary value was of the underspend in each subsequently transferred to support the Draft Legislative Programme for 2009-10. [324529]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office transferred £40 million resource and £5 million capital in the winter supplementary estimate 2009-10 for Building Britain's Future. The transfer was made from emerging underspends in the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322650]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has effective security arrangements in place to guard against theft. A range of measures to deter, prevent and detect theft are an integral feature of the Department's broader security risk mitigation measures. These controls reflect the minimum standards set out in the HMG Security Policy Framework (SPF), issued by the Cabinet Office and available online at:

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/spf.aspx

It would not be appropriate to provide details of specific measures as to do so would undermine their effectiveness.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what methodology his Department used to determine whether answers to Questions in the formulation if he will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Member's constituency the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997 could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [323867]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Department seeks to answer all parliamentary questions that do not incur disproportionate cost.

Disproportionate cost is determined via a disproportionate cost threshold (DCT). The current DCT is £800, announced in Parliament by the Treasury on 20 January 2010.

DNA: Databases

Mr. David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the familial searches of the national DNA database have resulted in a prosecution since the creation of that database. [325267]

Alan Johnson: Familial searches of the National DNA Database (NDNAD) are only carried out in cases of serious violent crime. They are undertaken on a case by case basis and only after authorisation from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) officer for the police force requesting the service. They are used to identify a suspect who does not have a DNA profile on the NDNAD but who may have a close relative who does have a profile on the NDNAD.

Data provided by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) indicate that, since 2003, 33 individual suspects have been identified subsequent to a familial search of the NDNAD which suggested a possible relative with a subject profile on the NDNAD. Of these 33 suspects, five were deceased. The remaining 28 suspects were prosecuted, of whom 27 were convicted.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 159W, on drugs: misuse, when the result of the commissioned research on the impact of khat will be available; and *(a)* how and *(b)* when the focus groups will be set up. [320110]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Department commissioned two studies in 2009 to explore the social harms associated with khat use. The first of these is a qualitative study exploring perceptions of the social harms associated with khat use; the availability of treatment services provided for khat users; and perceptions of the appropriate role of Government intervention. The second is a review of the national and international literature examining the evidence on the social harms associated with khat and the impact of legislation in countries which have legislated against khat use and supply. The work is now approaching completion and the Department aims to publish the findings of these studies later in 2010.

For the qualitative study, a total of 10 focus groups were conducted with members of the Somali, Yemeni and Ethiopian communities in Sheffield, London and Cardiff. An additional focus with members of the general public was held in each of the focus group site areas. The composition of focus groups was men-only, women-only or young people-only. The focus groups were conducted in a mix of mother-tongue and English depending on the needs of the group.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the operation of the hub and spoke model for the issue of visas to enter the UK. [325080]

Mr. Woolas: The hub and spoke system has been rolled out gradually since June 2007. This model, which separates the collection of applications from the place where the decision is made, has enabled the UK Border Agency to improve the efficiency and consistency of its visa operation, building on its network of visa application centres as well as increasing the security and integrity of our staff and delivering customer service benefits.

Management reviews of the impact of Hub and Spoke are undertaken at regular intervals, and assessments of hub and spoke arrangements have also been made by the independent chief inspector of UKBA. A recent internal evaluation has confirmed that hub and spoke has delivered a number of key benefits, including improvements in quality and consistence of decision making, efficiency and productivity, resilience and flexibility, and customer service.

Entry Clearances: Iraq

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many business visitor visas to the UK were issued in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Jordan to (i) Iraqi citizens and (ii) other nationals in each of the last 12 months. [325078]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* The information is as follows:

For 2009:

(a) 10

(b) (i) 1,220 and (ii) 3,049.

Detailed statistics by month are tabled as follows:

Statistics, Visit-Business visas issued

	Applications processed in Jordan	
2009	*Iraqi nationals*	*Other nationalities*
January	90	188
February	60	212
March	120	254
April	127	256
May	114	330
June	106	284
July	150	234
August	76	188
September	86	230
October	137	421
November	108	269
December	46	183
Total	1,220	3,049

Applications processed in Iraq	
2009	*Total*
March	8
June	2
December	0
Total	10

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on Iraqi citizens travelling to Jordan in order to submit an application for a business visitor visa to enter the UK; and if he will make a statement. [325079]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) International Group receives very few direct representations in respect of Iraqi citizens who have travelled to Jordan in order to submit an application for a business visitor visa. Properly documented applications are normally resolved and a decision made, within five working days.

Due to cost and security considerations, Ministers have agreed that UKBA will currently offer a limited visa application service in Baghdad and Erbil for certain designated categories of applicant (such as senior officials and diplomats), for those going to the UK under prime ministerial/Government sponsored initiatives and for urgent compassionate cases.

All other Iraqi nationals—including business people—can apply for their visas outside Iraq, in Damascus, Amman, and Beirut. The current processing time for straightforward applications made at one of these posts is usually within five working days.

UKBA International Group has recorded two recent cases of representations, from UK sponsors, regarding Iraqi citizens who would have preferred to submit their business visitor visa applications in Iraq.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were *(a)* applied for by and *(b)* granted to applicants from (i) India, (ii) Pakistan, (iii) Bangladesh, (iv) Sri Lanka, (v) Nepal, (vi) Malaysia and (vii) Nigeria in each of the last eight quarters. [301812]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 November 2010]:* The information requested is given in the following table and relates to the financial year.

Tier 4 (students) of the points based system was introduced on 31 March 2009 providing a robust system aimed at ensuring legitimate students are able to come here to access our world renowned educational facilities while protecting the route from abuse. As a result of the review of Tier 4 commissioned by the Prime Minister in November, we announced in February a balanced and targeted package of measures to further tighten the robustness of the system. Measures include, among others, raising the standard of English required to study in the UK and introducing a "highly trusted sponsor" scheme.

In February we also implemented suspensions of Tier 4 applications in north India, Bangladesh and Nepal to ensure proper scrutiny of applications. We lifted the suspension for applications at degree level (and for foundation degrees) in north India at the beginning of March. The other suspensions remain in place and are being kept under review.

	2007	*2008*				*2009*		
	October to December	*January to March*	*April to June*	*July to September*	*October to December*	*January to March*	*April to June*	*July to September*
Applications								
India	5,523	8,597	4,714	22,944	8,109	12,017	8,123	54,749
Pakistan	6,387	7,581	5,647	11,447	5,613	8,094	2,515	8,532
Bangladesh	2,163	3,277	2,399	3,548	1,456	2,563	1,161	11,567
Sri Lanka	995	1,284	977	2,724	1,647	2,157	1,172	4,178
Nepal	847	942	573	757	400	329	2,154	9,964
Malaysia	1,163	747	894	5,364	1,027	501	658	5,957
Nigeria	4,632	4,571	3,523	15,046	5,976	5,406	1,413	10,395
Issued								
India	3,127	5,068	2,633	17,661	4,905	7,807	3,884	31,416
Pakistan	1,777	2,185	1,510	4,705	1,260	1,499	1,553	4,961

	2007		2008				2009	
	October to December	January to March	April to June	July to September	October to December	January to March	April to June	July to September
Bangladesh	896	1,147	758	1,492	762	1,200	979	8,249
Sri Lanka	381	546	350	1,901	885	886	648	2,813
Nepal	300	229	88	281	145	210	288	6,370
Malaysia	1,011	691	699	4,749	1,003	462	477	5,447
Nigeria	1,673	1,769	768	5,999	1,826	1,683	668	7,646

Note:
These data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to determine the appeal of Shaheen Kausar lodged on 19 May 2009 in Islamabad against refusal of entry clearance. [325050]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* Shaheen Kausar's appeal against the refusal of her application for entry clearance was dismissed by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal on 21 October 2009 (AIT reference: VA/45370/2009).

Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical information related as directly as possible to Manchester, Gorton constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 1997. [322139]

Alan Johnson: Manchester, Gorton comes within the Manchester Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Prior to one March 2010, CSPs were referred to as crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRP). The available statistical information therefore relates to the Manchester CSP.

In terms of police recorded crime in the Manchester CSP, between 2002-03 and 2008-09, total recorded crime fell by 18 per cent. More specifically:

Violence against the person—down 2 per cent. (down 5 per cent. in last year)

Sexual offences—down 10 per cent. (down 10 per cent. in last year)

Robbery—down 43 per cent. (down 16 per cent. in last year)

Burglary—down 29 per cent. (up 5 per cent. in last year)

Offences against vehicles—down 35 per cent. (down 18 per cent. in last year)

Other theft offences—down 12 per cent. (up 2 per cent. in last year)

Criminal damage—down 20 per cent. (down 11 per cent. in last year)

Drug offences—up 151 per cent. (up 3 per cent. in last year) (there has been increased recording of drug offences which is mainly attributable to the increased use of police powers to issue cannabis warnings).

Data prior to 2002-03 are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Additionally, no data at CSP level are available prior to 1998-99.

Manchester CSP is covered by Metropolitan, North Manchester, South Manchester and Trafford basic command units, which had a total of 2,167 police officers as at 30 March 2009. The number of police officers has decreased by 74 since 2003. Comparisons with 1997 at BCU level are not available. There were 218 police community support officers as at 30 March 2009 while there were none in existence in 1997.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 saw positive effects with the statutory duty to create a crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP). These are now referred to as community safety partnerships (CSPs). The Manchester CSP has brought new ways of working in a cross cutting way with the police, council and other key stakeholders and genuine partnership working to help tackle complex issues.

Neighbourhood police teams are in place and the Manchester, Gorton constituency is served by a number of such teams from the Greater Manchester police's metropolitan division. Neighbourhood policing is a crucial partnership with the public and is helping to reduce crime and enhance community confidence in the police. The visible policing presence is augmented by information on neighbourhood policing in each area which is available on the internet. None of this was in place in 1997.

All CSPs, including Manchester, are putting in place minimum standards to tackle antisocial behaviour (ASB). By tackling ASB and providing support for victims, these will help to reduce local perceptions of ASB and improve public confidence. This was not in place in 1997. In addition, before 1997 there were no bespoke powers to tackle antisocial behaviour whereas there are now a range of powers to deal with this issue. These include antisocial behaviour orders and designated public places orders (DPPO) from the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Manchester is in the top 50 national priority areas for alcohol-related harm. The effects of the Department's policies on crime, antisocial behaviour, policing, and night time economy management have been consistently positive and instrumental in supporting the city centre's development as a safer, more popular and vibrant place to visit.

Detailed and comprehensive analysis is being used by Manchester, along with specific action plans to ensure reductions in serious violent crime. The Manchester Violent Gang Board has recently been commended for their approach to the issues within Manchester and have been given a Green Flag by the Audit Commission for their work in relation to guns and gangs. Gun crime is down significantly—Greater Manchester police's Xcalibre operations have had notable success in targeting the gang culture and securing convictions against gang leaders and members. Firearms discharges have reduced in Manchester over the last three years. This is helping to improve safety in Manchester, Gorton.

Since 1997 a key element of Home Office policy in addressing domestic violence has been driven through the Home Office-led cross-Government National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan. This includes the Specialist Domestic Violence Court programme (Manchester gained accreditation in 2008). It also includes Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), the Government's approach to identified high risk victims of domestic violence. Manchester is developing three MARACs covering all three police divisions. Victims of domestic violence are supported by independent domestic violence advisers (IDVAs)—trained specialists who provide a service to victims who are at high risk of harm which have been shown to decrease victimisation. Manchester now has 10 IDVAs.

Since 1997 a key element of Home Office policy in addressing sexual violence has been driven through the delivery of the Home Office-led cross-Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse which aims to increase access to health and support services for victims; improve the response of the criminal justice system for victims, and to prevent sexual violence in the first place.

This has led to expanded services such as sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) and independent sexual violence advisers (ISVAs) to improve victim care. Home Office has supported the continued development of St Mary's SARC in Manchester and the development of an ISVA service at the centre.

Manchester is a recipient of Youth Crime Action Plan funding and has rolled out a programme of initiatives designed to tackle youth crime. Manchester also receives funding from the Tackling Knives Action Programme and has engaged in a number of enforcement and educational activities to tackle and deter young people from involvement in all forms of serious youth violence. These include Safer Schools Partnerships.

The drug treatment system in Manchester has developed by means of joint planning and commissioning of services over many years. The introduction of national drug strategy and the establishment of pooled treatment budget arrangements in 2001-02 have done much to formalise and enhance partnership working. This has resulted in the development of an integrated treatment system. Manchester has an effective drugs intervention programme (DIP).

Manchester is achieving significant reductions in acquisitive crime, but recognises that there are still challenges, particularly in tackling issues such as domestic burglary and robbery. Robust plans are in place to tackle these. There is a real focus on student safety and Manchester has developed a Student Safety Business Model. Manchester is a Vigilance area and Safer Homes Fund area which are Home Office programmes aimed at tackling acquisitive crime, particularly burglary and robbery. Greater Manchester police's Operation Storm has had real success in recent reductions in domestic burglary in particular.

From 1 April 2010, CSPs are required formulate and implement a strategy "to reduce reoffending". One of Manchester's priorities includes reducing the offending of prolific and priority offenders and the partnership is currently exceeding the targets set in the Local Area Agreement. Manchester will shortly introduce Integrated Offender Management (IOM) based on the Greater Manchester Spotlight model and will have three co-located IOM teams covering the city. This will manage the most serious offenders including those responsible for acquisitive crime, and violent and domestic violence offences.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

Group 4 Securicor

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions there have been with Group 4 Securicor (G4S) on the service offered by G4S Policing Solutions; and if he will make a statement. [324858]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* The UK Border Agency has engaged in discussions with G4S about G4S Policing Solutions. Joint Immigration Crime Teams operating across the United Kingdom include a number of seconded police posts, five posts are at present being filled temporarily by non-warranted civilian investigators supplied by G4S Policing Solutions, for up to two months.

Planning is being finalised for resourcing this function into 2010-11.

Idcardsyoudecide Website

Mr. David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hits the idcardsyoudecide website has received since its launch. [325243]

Meg Hillier: There have been 5,301 page views on the website since its launch to present (28 March 2010):

http://www.idcardsyoudecide.wordpress.com

Mr. David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much had been spent on the idcardsyoudecide *(a)* website and *(b)* short films on the latest date for which figures are available. [325242]

Meg Hillier: The information is as follows:

(a) The cost of the website development is £8,348.50

http://www.idcardsyoudecide.wordpress.com

(b) The cost of the five animations that appear on the site is £15,219

Identity Cards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Ministers in his Department have *(a)* been issued with (i) an identity card and (ii) a biometric passport and *(b)* their details on the National Identity Register. [320674]

Alan Johnson: The Identity and Passport Service holds in confidence personal information about those people who have been issued with a passport or an identity card and it would not be proper to publish whether any particular individuals have been issued with a passport or identity card with their identity details recorded on passport records or on the National Identity Register.

Identity Cards: Bus Services

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Identity and Passport Service has given to the use of identity cards to indicate entitlement for free local bus travel for the over-60s. [325324]

Meg Hillier: There are no current plans to use identity cards to indicate entitlement for free bus travel for the over-60s. However, an identity card is a convenient proof of age and could be used for the holder to prove that they qualify for age related services such as applying for a bus pass.

Identity Cards: Greater Manchester

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what means police in Greater Manchester are able to verify that an identity card is valid. [314774]

Alan Johnson: We expect a number of checks will be based on visual verification of the card. We have provided detailed guidance on the security features that can be checked to ensure an identity card is genuine. Also, the police can request that the Identity and Passport Service check the validity of an identity card against the National Identity Register for prescribed purposes set out in legislation. These are for the prevention and detection of crime, national security, or to help identify a victim of an event which has caused loss of life or injury.

Identity Cards: Passports

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy not to combine the identity card and biometric passport schemes. [318773]

Alan Johnson: The Government's intention is to offer British citizens aged 16 and over the choice of being issued with a passport or an identity card or both documents and for applicants' identity details, including facial image and fingerprint biometrics, to be held on the same National Identity Register. As the Government are to introduce fingerprint biometric passports and essentially the same information will be recorded for the issue of a passport or identity card, it will be far more cost effective and secure to introduce a single application process and to hold the identity information of people issued with passports and identity cards on a single register rather than duplicating that information on separate but almost identical databases.

Illegal Immigrants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to Baroness Warsi of 17 March 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 190WA, on Houses of Parliament: illegal staff, whether the individual who was the subject of the report to the UK Border Agency worked for the House of Commons Service. [324623]

Mr. Woolas: The individual referred to in the answer to Baroness Warsi of 17 March 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 190WA, was engaged directly by a contracted cleaning company.

Immigration: Gurkhas

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Gurkha veterans have claimed resettlement rights since August 2009; and how many of them are receiving *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* housing benefit and *(c)* council tax benefit. [325777]

Mr. Woolas: Any former member of the Brigade of Gurkhas who served for four years or more is eligible to apply for settlement in the UK. Since we published our revised guidance in 2009 we have granted settlement to 2,179 individuals.

The UK's benefit systems do not record the nationality of people receiving benefits because nationality is not a condition of entitlement.

Islamist Militants

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the funds raised in the UK for overseas Islamist militants. [325029]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary published on 22 March this year the first annual report on progress against the objectives set out in the Government's overall strategy for countering international terrorism (known as 'CONTEST'), which includes information on work to tackle terrorist finance. For reasons of national security it would not be appropriate for me to comment on the details of the Government's assessments of the levels of funds raised in the UK for terrorism overseas.

Khat

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the health effects of khat. [320108]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The HO commissioned two studies in 2009 to explore the social harms associated with khat use. The first of these is a qualitative study exploring perceptions of the social harms associated with khat use; the availability of treatment services provided for khat users; and perceptions of the appropriate role of Government intervention. The second is a review of the national and international literature examining the evidence on the social harms associated with khat and the impact of legislation in countries which have legislated against khat use and supply.

The perceived health effects of khat are briefly reported on in each of the studies. The Home Office has not commissioned any overall evaluations of the health effects associated with khat use.

Mobile Phones: Surveillance

Mr. David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on *(a)* contracts with Roke Manor and *(b)* other projects relating to the Celldar mobile telephone monitoring system. [325266]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* The Home Department has not spent any money on *(a)* contracts with Roke Manor or *(b)* other projects relating to the Celldar mobile telephone monitoring system.

Offences Against Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Government will take steps to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. [325031]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* We are currently taking steps to assess the UK's compliance with its obligations under the convention.

Offensive Weapons: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving a weapon there have been in North Shropshire in each year since 1997; and what type of weapon was involved in each case. [325417]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The main police recorded crime return does not identify the use of a weapon in a given offence. Figures are collected for possession of weapon offences, but these do not include the more serious offences with which weapons are often associated, such as grievous bodily harm with intent.

Data relating to firearms offences and knife and sharp instrument offences are available, through additional special collections separate to the main recorded crime return. Figures are collected at police force level only, so data are provided for West Mercia police force area.

Data for firearms offences (excluding air weapons) are available since 1997-98 and are shown in Tables A, B and C.

There were two major changes in the way that police record crime in 1998 and 2002. In April 1998, the way in which crime was counted changed and the coverage of offences increased. In April 2002 the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced, which brought in a more victim-focused reporting system. This means that it is not possible to compare figures across these recording changes and this is reflected in the tables.

Data for knife/sharp instrument offences have been collected since April 2007 via a special additional data collection. Data are therefore only available for two years.

In 2007-08, the data collection covered the following offences: attempted murder, GBH and robbery. In 2008-09, the collection was expanded to include threats to kill, ABH, rape and sexual assaults. There were also changes in how both GBH with and without intent was recorded by forces following clarification of counting rules. Therefore, the figures between the two years are not comparable.

The data for knife/sharp instrument offences are shown in Tables D and E.

Table A: Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) in West Mercia police force area, 1997-98

	Total number of offences
1997-98	30

Table B: Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) in West Mercia police force area, 1998-99 to 2001-02[1,2]

	Total number of offences
1998-99	38
1999-2000	36
2000-01	41
2001-02	54

[1] The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998/99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997-98.
[2] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table C: Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) in West Mercia police force area, 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

	Total number of offences
2002-03	48
2003-04	62
2004-05	151
2005-06	113
2006-07	98
2007-08	134
2008-09	79

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Table D: Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by West Mercia police for selected offences, 2007-08[1]

Offence category	Number of offences
Attempted murder	1
Wounding with intent to do GBH	43
Wounding or inflicting GBH without intent[2]	20
Robbery	80
Total of selected serious offences	144

[1] Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument. In this table "offences involving a knife" refers to the use of a knife or sharp instrument. Total of selected serious offences only include the five offence types shown in this table.
[2] Includes racially or religiously aggravated wounding or inflicting GBH.

Table E: Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by West Mercia police for selected offences, 2008-09[1]

Offence category	Number of offences
Attempted murder	5
Threats to kill	16
ABH and GBH[2]	137
Robbery	81
Rape and sexual assaults	1
Total of selected serious offences	242

[1] Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument. In this table "offences involving a knife" refers to the use of a knife or sharp instrument. Total of selected serious offences only include the five offence types shown in this table. Collection expanded to 2008-09.
[2] Includes racially or religiously aggravated wounding or inflicting GBH.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* knives and *(b)* firearms have been recovered by police in North Shropshire in each year since 1997. [325418]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The requested data are not held centrally.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has undertaken costings of the policies of the *(a)* Conservative Party and *(b)* Liberal Democrat Party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months. [334246]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Portsmouth, North (Sarah McCarthy-Fry), on 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1044W.

Police

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of police *(a)* time and *(b)* budget spent on tackling (i) gang related crimes, (ii) robbery, (iii) criminal damage and (iv) sexual offences. [317836]

Alan Johnson: Table A contains the percentages of police officer time spent on different activities for the financial year 2007-08 for England and Wales. To reduce paperwork burdens on police officers the collection of data about time spent by officers on police activities ceased after 2007-08 in response to the recommendations by Sir David Normington in his review of data burdens placed by the Government on the police service published in February 2009. Activities are grouped according to whether they are related to crime incidents, related to non-crime incidents (e.g. road traffic accidents), or not related to specific incidents. In this last case, these activities could be related to crime (e.g. prison interviews), or to general police duties and activities (e.g. training).

The Policing Green Paper published in July 2008 introduced a robust programme to reduce bureaucracy and free-up officer time. This is enabling frontline staff to focus on dealing with the public's priorities, as measured against the confidence target—now the only top-down target on forces.

Table A indicates that, in 2007-08, the police in England spent 32.7 per cent. of their time on all crime incident-specific activities, 14.6 per cent. of their time on all non-crime incident specific activities, and 52.7 per cent. of their time on activities which were not related to specific incidents (although some of this will be crime-related).

The comparative figures for Wales are 27.9 per cent., 20.7 per cent. and 51.5 per cent. respectively.

Overall, in 2007-08, police in England and Wales spent 32.5 per cent. of their time on all crime incident-specific activities, 14.9 per cent. of their time on all non-crime incident specific activities, and 52.7 per cent. of their time on activities which were not related to specific incidents.

For the specific offence groupings of robbery, criminal damage and sexual offending, the amount of time spent by the police in England and Wales in 2007-08 on incident-specific activities, as a proportion of total police time, was 2.2 per cent., 2.1 per cent. and 2.3 per cent. respectively. As a proportion of total crime incident-specific time, the figures were 6.7 per cent., 6.3 per cent. and 7.2 per cent. respectively. There is no category of 'gang-related crimes'.

Table B contains police spend on different activities for the financial year 2007-08. As before, crime and non-crime incident-specific activities are differentiated. The categorisation of non-incident specific activities is different in Table B from Table A, however. Table B does not include costs of activities such as training, which are instead treated as overheads and included in the costs of all other activities. Further, Table B separates out some activities which are undertaken by particular staff or roles (e.g. 'intelligence analysis and research')—these are not included in Table A, as activity analysis covered only police officers working on foot, car or beat patrol, CID and traffic duties. Note that costs in Table B do not include 'sustaining overheads' such as running costs for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

Table B indicates that for the financial year 2007-08 the police in England and Wales spent 34.9 per cent. of its total budget (excluding sustaining overheads) on crime incident-specific activities. For the same specific offence groupings of robbery, criminal damage and sexual offending, the amount of budget spent by the police in England and Wales in 2007-08 on incident-specific activities, as a proportion of total police budget (excluding sustaining overheads), was 2.0 per cent., 2.2 per cent. and 2.6 per cent. respectively. As a proportion of total crime incident-specific budget spending, the figures were 5.7 per cent., 6.3 per cent. and 7.4 per cent. respectively. As before, there is no category of 'gang-related crimes'.

By way of context, Table C provides proportions of crime incidents of different types alongside the proportion of time and budgetary spend on crime devoted to these incident types. Thus it can be seen that, in 2007-08, robbery accounted for 1.7 per cent. of crime incidents, and 6.7 per cent. and 5.7 per cent. of police time and budgetary spend respectively. Criminal damage accounted for 21 per cent. of crime incidents, and 6.3 per cent. of both police time and budget. Sexual offences accounted for 1.1 per cent. of crime incidents, and 7.2 per cent. and 7.4 per cent. of police time and budget respectively.

Table A: Police time by activity, England and Wales[1], 2007-08

	Percentage of time		
Activity	*England*	*Wales*	*Total*
Dealing with crime incidents			
Violence against the person—S20[2] and more serious	3.4	2.3	3.3
Violence against the person—S47 and less serious	4.0	4.2	4.0
Sexual offences	2.3	2.1	2.3
Burglary dwelling	2.8	2.8	2.8
Burglary—commercial and other	1.2	1.5	1.2
Robbery	2.2	0.9	2.2
Theft of or from motor vehicle	1.8	1.7	1.8
Deception/fraud	1.2	0.9	1.2
Theft other	3.3	3.0	3.3
Drugs offences	2.8	2.7	2.8
Criminal damage	2.0	3.2	2.1
Other crime	5.6	2.6	5.5
Total	32.7	27.9	32.5
Dealing with non-crime incidents			
RTA fatal/serious	1.0	0.9	1.0
RTA minor injury/damage	1.2	1.7	1.2
Traffic Other	2.4	3.8	2.5
Public disorder	1.9	2.8	2.0
Domestic dispute	2.1	2.4	2.2
Complaint/nuisance	0.9	2.5	1.0

Table A: Police time by activity, England and Wales[1], 2007-08

	Percentage of time		
Activity	*England*	*Wales*	*Total*
Prostitution	0.1	0.0	0.1
False alarms	0.1	0.3	0.2
Missing person	1.1	1.7	1.2
Sudden/suspicious death	0.6	1.2	0.6
Other non crime	3.0	3.3	3.1
Total	14.6	20.7	14.9
Non-incident related			
Visible Patrol	13.7	15.2	13.8
Court duties/escort	0.4	0.3	0.4
Special operations/events	1.9	1.6	1.8
Investigate complaints	0.2	0.2	0.2
Deal with informants	0.4	0.0	0.3
Community Involvement	1.3	1.3	1.3
Property inquiries	0.3	0.4	0.3
Non incident inquiries	1.5	1.6	1.5
Crime prevention activity	0.4	0.2	0.4
Prison interviews	0.1	0.0	0.1
Training	1.9	1.1	1.8
Briefings/meetings	6.6	7.2	6.6
Non incident linked paperwork	7.4	7.0	7.4
Other non incident related work	5.0	3.6	4.9
Staff development, appraisal, personnel-related	0.9	0.7	0.8
Monitoring cellblock PACE	0.3	0.2	0.3
Relief custody duties	0.4	0.8	0.4
Call handling/relief control room duties/enquiry desk	0.2	0.2	0.2
Checking paperwork (supervisory)	1.8	2.3	1.8
Budgetary/financial	0.1	0.1	0.1
ID parades	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other managerial/supervision	3.6	2.7	3.5
Refreshments	4.2	4.6	4.2
Waiting time	0.3	0.1	0.3
Total	52.7	51.5	52.7
Grand total	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] Excludes Staffordshire, as this force did not submit AA data for 2007-08.

Table B: Police spend by activity, England and Wales[1], 2007-08

Activity	*Spend (£000)*	*Spend (percentage)*
Dealing with crime incidents		
Violence against the person—S20 and more serious	395,906	4.50
Violence against the person—S47 and less serious	346,819	4.00
Sexual offences	226,678	2.60
Burglary dwelling	259,262	3.00
Burglary—commercial and other	130,232	1.50
Robbery	170,458	2.00
Theft of or from motor vehicle	195,493	2.20
Deception/fraud	130,792	1.50
Theft other	273,557	3.10
Drugs offences	271,550	3.10
Criminal damage	187,576	2.20
Other crime	452,835	5.20
Total	3,041,159	35
Dealing with non-crime incidents		
RTA fatal/serious	76,905	0.90
RTA minor injury/damage	105,163	1.20
Traffic Other	243,729	2.80
Public disorder	235,011	2.70
Domestic dispute	175,446	2.00
Complaint/nuisance	99,671	1.10
Prostitution	7,876	0.10
False alarms	13,058	0.10
Missing person	112,040	1.30
Sudden/suspicious death	81,260	0.90
Other non crime	276,938	3.20
Total	1,427,097	16
Non-incident related		
Visible Patrol	1,207,838	13.80
Court duties/escort	35,643	0.40
Special operations/events	225,440	2.60
Deal with informants	39,985	0.50
Community Involvement	169,188	1.90
Property inquiries	32,032	0.40
Non incident inquiries	135,039	1.50
Crime prevention activity	64,865	0.70
Prison interviews	7,332	0.10
Role Code—National, international policing, CT and Special Branch	474,839	5.40
Role Code—Crime partnerships	90,021	1.00
Role Code—Maintaining and developing partnerships	35,687	0.40
Role Code—Intelligence Research and Analysis	368,101	4.20
Role Code—Prisoner handling/ custody	399,657	4.60
Role Code—Call handling/inquiry office	603,164	6.90
Role Code—Licensing	23,475	0.30
Role Code—Criminal Justice	273,753	3.10
Role Code—Police protection	21,014	0.20
Role Code—Family liaison	19,830	0.20
Role Code—Warrants	16,581	0.20
ID parades	9,698	0.10
Total	8,721,439	49
Grand total	4,253,184	100.00

[1] Excludes Staffordshire, as this force did not submit AA data for 2007-08.

Table C: Proportions of crime incidents, crime incident-related activity and crime incident-related spend by crime type, England and Wales[1] 2007-08

		Percentage	
Crime incident type	*Crime incidents*	*Time on crime incidents*	*Budget on crime incidents*
Violence against the person—S20 and more serious	0.5	10.3	12.9
Violence against the person—S47 and less serious	18.8	12.4	11.5
Sexual offences	1.1	7.2	7.4
Burglary dwelling	5.7	8.6	8.6
Burglary—commercial and other	6.2	3.7	4.3
Robbery	1.7	6.7	5.7
Theft of or from motor vehicle	13.3	5.4	6.3
Deception/fraud	3.2	3.7	4.3
Theft other	22.3	10.1	8.9
Drugs offences	4.6	8.6	8.9
Criminal damage	21.0	6.3	6.3
Other crime	1.4	17.0	14.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] Excludes Staffordshire, as this force did not submit AA data for 2007-08.

Police: Bureaucracy

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of police officer time was spent on each type of activity in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. [319518]

Alan Johnson: Table A contains the percentages of police officer time spent on different activities for the financial year 2007-08 for England and Wales. To reduce paperwork burdens on police officers the collection of data about time spent by officers on police activities ceased after 2007-08 in response to the recommendations by Sir David Normington in his review of data burdens placed by the Government on the police service published in February 2009. Activities are grouped according to whether they are related to crime incidents, related to non-crime incidents (e.g. road traffic accidents), or not related to specific incidents. In this last case, these activities could be related to crime (e.g. prison interviews), or to general police duties and activities (e.g. training).

The Policing Green Paper published in July 2008 introduced a robust programme to reduce bureaucracy and free-up officer time. This is enabling front line staff to focus on dealing with the public's priorities, as measured against the confidence target—now the only top-down target on forces.

Table A indicates that, in 2007-08, the police in England spent 32.7 per cent. of their time on all crime incident-specific activities, 14.6 per cent. of their time on all non-crime incident specific activities, and 52.7 per cent. of their time on activities which were not related to specific incidents (although some of this will be crime-related).

The comparative figures for Wales are 27.9 per cent., 20.7 per cent. and 51.5 per cent. respectively.

Overall, in 2007-08, police in England and Wales spent 32.5 per cent. of their time on all crime incident-specific activities, 14.9 per cent. of their time on all non-crime incident specific activities, and 52.7 per cent. of their time on activities which were not related to specific incidents.

For the specific offence groupings of robbery, criminal damage and sexual offending, the amount of time spent by the police in England and Wales in 2007-08 on incident-specific activities, as a proportion of total police time, was 2.2 per cent., 2.1 per cent. and 2.3 per cent. respectively. As a proportion of total crime incident-specific time, the figures were 6.7 per cent., 6.3 per cent. and 7.2 per cent. respectively. There is no category of 'gang-related crimes'.

Table B contains police spend on different activities for the financial year 2007-08. As before, crime and non-crime incident-specific activities are differentiated. The categorisation of non-incident specific activities is different in Table B from Table A, however. Table B does not include costs of activities such as training, which are instead treated as overheads and included in the costs of all other activities. Further, Table B separates out some activities which are undertaken by particular staff or roles (e.g. 'intelligence analysis and research')—these are not included in Table A, as activity analysis covered only police officers working on foot, car or beat patrol, CID and traffic duties. Note that costs in Table B do not include 'sustaining overheads' such as running costs for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

Table B indicates that for the financial year 2007-08 the police in England and Wales spent 34.9 per cent. of its total budget (excluding sustaining overheads) on crime incident-specific activities. For the same specific offence groupings of robbery, criminal damage and sexual offending, the amount of budget spent by the police in England and Wales in 2007-08 on incident-specific activities, as a proportion of total police budget (excluding sustaining overheads), was 2.0 per cent., 2.2 per cent. and 2.6 per cent. respectively. As a proportion of total crime incident-specific budget spending, the figures were 5.7 per cent., 6.3 per cent. and 7.4 per cent. respectively. As before, there is no category of 'gang-related crimes'.

By way of context, Table C provides proportions of crime incidents of different types alongside the proportion of time and budgetary spend on crime devoted to these incident types. Thus it can be seen that, in 2007-08, robbery accounted for 1.7 per cent. of crime incidents, and 6.7 per cent. and 5.7 per cent. of police time and budgetary spend respectively. Criminal damage accounted for 21 per cent. of crime incidents, and 6.3 per cent. of both police time and budget. Sexual offences accounted for 1.1 per cent. of crime incidents, and 7.2 per cent. and 7.4 per cent. of police time and budget respectively.

Table A: Police time by activity, England and Wales[1], 2007-08

Percentage of time

Activity	*England*	*Wales*	*Total*
Dealing with crime incidents			
Violence against the person—S20 and more serious	3.4	2.3	3.3
Violence against the person—S47 and less serious	4.0	4.2	4.0
Sexual offences	2.3	2.1	2.3
Burglary dwelling	2.8	2.8	2.8
Burglary—commercial and other	1.2	1.5	1.2
Robbery	2.2	0.9	2.2
Theft of or from motor vehicle	1.8	1.7	1.8
Deception/fraud	1.2	0.9	1.2
Theft other	3.3	3.0	3.3
Drugs offences	2.8	2.7	2.8
Criminal damage	2.0	3.2	2.1
Other crime	5.6	2.6	5.5
	32.7	27.9	32.5
Dealing with non-crime incidents			
RTA fatal/serious	1.0	0.9	1.0
RTA minor injury/damage	1.2	1.7	1.2
Traffic Other	2.4	3.8	2.5
Public disorder	1.9	2.8	2.0
Domestic dispute	2.1	2.4	2.2
Complaint/nuisance	0.9	2.5	1.0
Prostitution	0.1	0.0	0.1
False alarms	0.1	0.3	0.2
Missing person	1.1	1.7	1.2
Sudden/suspicious death	0.6	1.2	0.6
Other non crime	3.0	3.3	3.1
	14.6	20.7	14.9
Non-incident related			
Visible patrol	13.7	13.2	13.8
Court duties/escort	0.4	0.3	0.4

Table A: Police time by activity, England and Wales[1], 2007-08

Activity	England	Wales	Total
	Percentage of time		
Special operations/events	1.9	1.6	1.8
Investigate complaints	0.2	0.2	0.2
Deal with informants	0.4	0.0	0.3
Community involvement	1.3	1.3	1.3
Property inquiries	0.3	0.4	0.3
Non incident inquiries	1.5	1.6	1.5
Crime prevention activity	0.4	0.2	0.4
Prison interviews	0.1	0.0	0.1
Training	1.9	1.1	1.8
Briefings/meetings	6.6	7.2	6.6
Non-incident linked paperwork	7.4	7.0	7.4
Other non-incident related work	5.0	3.6	4.9
Staff development, appraisal, personnel-related	0.9	0.7	0.8
Monitoring cellblock PACE	0.3	0.2	0.3
Relief custody duties	0.4	0.8	0.4
Call handling/relief control room duties/inquiry desk	0.2	0.2	0.2
Checking paperwork (supervisory)	1.8	2.3	1.8
Budgetary/financial	0.1	0.1	0.1
ID parades	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other managerial/ supervision	3.6	2.7	3.5
Refreshments	4.2	4.6	4.2
Waiting time	0.3	0.1	0.3
	52.7	51.5	52.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] Excludes Staffordshire, as this force did not submit AA data for 2007-08.

Table B: Police spend by activity, England and Wales[1], 2007-08

Activity	Spend (£000)	Spend (percentage)
Dealing with crime incidents		
Violence against the person—S20 and more serious	393,906	4.50
Violence against the person—S47 and less serious	346,819	4.00
Sexual offences	226,678	2.60
Burglary dwelling	259,262	3.00
Burglary—commercial and other	130,232	1.50
Robbery	170,458	2.00
Theft of or from motor vehicle	195,493	2.20
Deception/fraud	130,792	1.50
Theft other	273,557	3.10
Drugs offences	271,330	3.10
Criminal damage	187,576	2.20
Other crime	452,835	5.20
	3,041,159	35
Dealing with non-crime incidents		
RTA fatal/serious	76,905	0.90
RTA minor injury/damage	105,163	1.20
Traffic Other	243,729	2.80
Public disorder	235,011	2.70
Domestic dispute	175,446	2.00
Complaints/nuisance	99,671	1.10
Prostitution	7,876	0.10
False alarms	13,058	0.10
Missing person	112,040	1.30
Sudden/suspicious death	81,260	0.90
Other non-crime	276,938	3.20

Table B: Police spend by activity, England and Wales[1], 2007-08

Activity	Spend (£000)	Spend (percentage)
	1,427,097	1
Non-incident related		
Visible patrol	1,207,838	13.8
Court duties/escort	35,643	0.4
Special operations/events	225,440	2.6
Deal with informants	39,985	0.5
Community involvement	160,186	1.9
Property inquiries	32,032	0.4
Non incident inquiries	135,039	1.5
Crime prevention activity	64,865	0.7
Prison interviews	7,332	0.1
Role Code—National, international policing, CT and Special Branch	474,839	5.4
Role Code—Crime partnerships	90,021	1.0
Role Code—Maintaining and developing partnerships	35,687	0.4
Role Code—Intelligence Research and Analysis	368,101	4.2
Role Code—Prisoner handling/ custody	399,657	4.6
Role Code—Call handling/enquiry office	603,164	6.9
Role Code—Licensing	23,475	0.
Role Code—Criminal justice	273,753	3.
Role Code—Police protection	21,004	0.
Role Code—Family liaison	19,830	0.
Role Code—Warrants	16,581	0.
ID parades	9,698	0.
	4,253,184	
Total	8,721,439	100.

[1] Excludes Staffordshire, as this force did not submit AA data for 2007-08.

Table C: Proportions of crime incidents, crime incident-related activity and crime incident-related spend by crime type, England and Wales[1], 2007-08

Crime incident type	Crime incidents	Time on crime incidents	Budget cri incide
			Percenta
Violence against the person—S20 and more serious	0.5	10.3	1
Violence against the person—S47 and less serious	18.8	12.4	1
Sexual offences	1.1	7.2	
Burglary dwelling	5.7	8.6	
Burglary—commercial and other	6.2	3.7	
Robbery	1.7	6.7	
Theft of or from motor vehicle	13.3	5.4	
Deception/fraud	3.2	3.7	
Theft other	22.3	10.1	
Drugs offences	4.6	8.6	
Criminal damage	21.0	6.3	
Other crime	1.4	17.0	
Total	100.0	100.0	10

[1] Excludes Staffordshire, as this force did not submit AA data for 2007-08.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of Sate for t Home Department what proportion of police offi time was spent on front-line policing in eacl year sir 1997. [319

Alan Johnson: For the period 2003-04 to 2007-08, front-line policing measure assesses time spent by pol officers on core policing duties such as patrol a

responding to 999 calls. They also include activities of CID and specialist officers, who, while not always visible to the public, are none the less carrying out core policing duties.

The estimates by year are as follows: 2003-04, 63.6 per cent.; 2004-05, 62.3 per cent.; 2005-06, 63.6 per cent.; 2006-07, 64.2 per cent.; 2007-08, 64.9 per cent. Data for Staffordshire are not available for 2007-08 and these figures therefore exclude Staffordshire.

The Policing Green Paper published in July 2008 introduced a robust programme to reduce bureaucracy and free-up officer time. This is enabling frontline staff to focus on dealing with the public's priorities, as measured against the confidence target—now the only top-down target on forces. As recommended by Sir David Normington in his review of data burdens placed by the Government on the police service, the collection of data about time spent by officers on police activities ceased after 2007-08.

On 18 March 2010 HM Inspectorate of Constabulary published Value for Money Profiles for the 43 forces in England and Wales. Explanatory material accompanying the profiles contains an overall analysis of the police workforce as at 31 March 2009 which shows the proportion by function as:

Aiding the public 47 per cent.

Working in the community 36 per cent.

Policing roads 4 per cent.

Taking 999 calls and tasking (control room) 7 per cent.

Dealing with criminals 31 per cent.

Investigating crime (for example CID) 13 per cent.

Specialist functions (such as air support, fire arms, dogs) 4 per cent.

Gathering intelligence 4 per cent.

Processing forensic evidence 2 per cent.

Preparing cases for court (criminal justice) 5 per cent.

Holding people in custody 3 per cent.

Helping to support 22 per cent.

Operational Support (including planning, estates, vehicles) 8 per cent.

Business Support (including HR, finance, IT) 11 per cent.

Training 2 per cent.

Other (such as catering and stores/supplies) 1 per cent.

Note:

These figures relate to the breakdown of all police personnel by function. They therefore include police staff as well as officers.

Police: Council Tax

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average Band D police precept on council tax bills in *(a)* England, *(b)* England and Wales and *(c)* each individual police authority (i) was in 1997-98 and (ii) will be in 2010-11 in (A) cash terms and (B) real terms in 2010 prices. [325322]

Mr. Hanson: The information available is in the following table.

£

Police Authority	Precept (Band D) 1997-98 Cash	Precept (Band D) 1997-98 Real	Precept (Band D) 2010-11 Cash=real terms
Avon and Somerset	52.04	70.46	168.03
Bedfordshire	52.51	71.10	144.77
Cambridgeshire	51.03	69.10	169.56
Cheshire	51.16	69.27	144.53
Cleveland	54.87	74.29	187.84
Cumbria	58.20	78.80	193.89
Derbyshire	51.31	69.47	163.74
Devon and Cornwall	49.79	67.42	156.60
Dorset	63.59	86.10	180.00
Durham	52.20	70.68	153.41
Essex	54.09	73.24	132.12
Gloucestershire	51.17	69.28	199.69
Greater Manchester	54.10	73.25	144.33
Hampshire	51.75	70.07	146.25
Hertfordshire	51.51	69.75	147.82
Humberside	52.47	71.04	166.47
Kent	51.59	69.85	138.68
Lancashire	53.25	72.10	146.27
Leicestershire	52.26	70.76	169.63
Lincolnshire	69.03	93.47	179.28
Metropolitan	63.27	85.67	216.83
Merseyside	66.87	90.54	146.23
Norfolk	50.58	68.49	191.16
North Yorkshire	49.72	67.32	204.55
Northamptonshire	70.56	95.54	193.20
Northumbria	52.73	71.40	83.68
Nottinghamshire	49.78	67.40	160.11
South Yorkshire	53.29	72.16	132.33
Staffordshire	54.74	74.12	177.61
Suffolk	51.39	69.58	160.74
Surrey	44.64	60.44	198.54
Sussex	51.66	69.95	138.42
Thames Valley	52.79	71.48	154.30
Warwickshire	52.24	70.73	174.10
West Mercia	50.87	68.88	178.72
West Midlands	53.20	72.03	99.45
West Yorkshire	53.17	71.99	130.50
Wiltshire	55.22	74.77	157.77
Dyfed Powys	48.42	65.56	181.44
Gwent	49.10	66.48	181.38
North Wales	48.52	65.70	201.33
South Wales	49.22	66.64	153.67
England Average	54.07	73.21	161.35
England and Wales Average	53.57	72.53	163.07

Sources:
1. English Police Authorities—DCLG
2. Welsh Police Authorities—WAG

The averages calculated here are the averages of the precepts displayed above.

Rape

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to counter inaccurate perceptions of *(a)* the number of falsely-reported rapes and *(b)* individual responsibility for the crime of rape. [321382]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is as follows:

(a) MOJ and HO are considering the recommendation set out in Baroness Stern's independent review on this issue and will publish a full response to the review later this year.

The Government are working with police and CPS to ensure that every victim has the confidence to report. Guidance on Investigating and Prosecuting Rape published in June 2009 by NPIA states that officers should assume victim reports are accurate unless evidence proves otherwise. Joint ACPO/CPS support team visits will have been made to every force to support the implementation of this guidance by March 2010.

(b) The Government recently launched a new advertising campaign to challenge teenagers' attitudes to violence and abuse in relationships. The campaign is the first part of a communications strategy announced in the Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls strategy. This can be viewed at the campaign website:

http://thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk/

A number of local areas run local campaigns to challenge attitudes on rape and in particular, those around consent. The Home Office has contributed to the cost of these campaigns, most recently, the Greater Manchester police awareness campaign "No Consent, No Sex" TV campaign in December 2009.

Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times he has visited Shropshire in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [325415]

Alan Johnson: In the last 12 months I have not visited Shropshire in an official capacity.

Stop and Search

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many stop and search procedures were performed on members of each ethnic minority in each of the last five years; [323485]

(2) how many stop and search procedures were performed *(a)* by Leicestershire Police, *(b)* by officers of police authorities in the East Midlands and *(c)* in England in each of the last five years; [323486]

(3) how many stop and search procedures were performed on people in each age group in each of the last five years. [323487]

Mr. Hanson: Data on stop and search procedures performed by ethnic appearance in each of the last five years can be found in table 1.

Data on stop and search procedures performed *(a)* by Leicestershire police, *(b)* by officers of police authorities in the East Midlands and *(c)* in England in each of the last five years can be found in table 2.

The stop and searches collection held by the Home Office does not breakdown stop and search procedures by age group.

Table 1: Stop and search procedures performed, under sections 1, 60, 44(1) and 44(2), by ethnic appearance

2007-08

Main	*Searches of persons under section 1—general*	*Searches of persons in anticipation of violence under section 60*	*Searches of vehicles and occupants under section 44(1)*	*Searches of persons in order to prevent acts of terrorism under section 44(2)*	*Total*
White	738,505	35,973	42,006	31,961	848,44
Black	172,393	11,837	8,753	6,465	199,44
Asian	89,781	4,125	10,878	9,890	114,67
Other	17,755	433	2,773	3,154	24,11
Not Recorded	17,004	757	807	591	19,15
Vehicle Only Searched	10,485	125	7,409	—	18,01
Total	1,045,923	53,250	72,626	52,061	1,223,86

2006-07

Main	*Searches of persons under section 1—general*	*Searches of persons in anticipation of violence under section 60*	*Searches of vehicles and occupants under section 44(1)*	*Searches of persons in order to prevent acts of terrorism under section 44(2)*	*Total*
White	690,643	25,520	16,878	9,695	742,73
Black	152,120	13,219	2,412	1,230	168,98
Asian	77,421	4,522	3,127	2,438	87,50
Other	14,755	618	756	909	17,03
Not Recorded	20,174	780	312	206	21,47
Vehicle Only Searched	7,784	48	4,871	—	12,70
Total	962,897	44,707	28,356	14,478	1,050,43

2005-06

Main	*Searches of persons under section 1—general*	*Searches of persons in anticipation of violence under section 60*	*Searches of vehicles and occupants under section 44(1)*	*Searches of persons in order to prevent acts of terrorism under section 44(2)*	*Total*
White	629,624	22,702	19,187	11,650	683,16
Black	133,769	7,199	2,046	2,110	145,12

2005-06

Main	Searches of persons under section 1—general	Searches of persons in anticipation of violence under section 60	Searches of vehicles and occupants under section 44(1)	Searches of persons in order to prevent acts of terrorism under section 44(2)	Total
Asian	68,173	4,856	2,809	3,994	79,832
Other	13,967	594	944	994	16,499
Not Recorded	32,620	897	493	316	34,326
Vehicle Only Searched	10,522	28	5,504	—	16,054
Total	888,675	36,276	30,983	19,064	974,998

2004-05

Main	Searches of persons under section 1—general[1]	Searches of persons in anticipation of violence under section 60	Searches of vehicles and occupants under section 44(1)	Searches of persons in order to prevent acts of terrorism under section 44(2)	Total
White	16,383	23,405	17,337	7,456	64,581
Black	180	9,926	2,113	631	12,850
Asian	96	6,858	2,659	1,047	10,660
Other	295	810	842	587	2,534
Not Recorded	4,047	576	402	146	5,171
Vehicle Only Searched	95	36	3,793	—	3,924
Total	861,494	41,611	27,146	9,867	940,118

2003-04

Main	Searches of persons under section 1—general	Searches of persons in anticipation of violence under section 60	Searches of vehicles and occupants under section 44(1)	Searches of persons in order to prevent acts of terrorism under section 44(2)	Total
White	547,369	23,868	14,806	5,840	591,883
Black	108,208	9,385	2,146	558	120,297
Asian	53,794	5,627	2,571	1,097	63,089
Other	10,796	688	904	418	12,806
Not Recorded	16,552	625	867	209	18,253
Vehicle Only Searched	12,725	243	4,396	10	17,374
Total	749,444	40,436	25,690	8,132	74,258

'— 'Data not broken down by vehicle only search
[1] Data for searches of person under section 1—general has been estimated

Table 2: Stop and search procedures performed in Leicestershire, East Midlands and England, under sections 1, 60, 44(1) and 44(2)

2007-08

Police force area	Searches of persons under section 1—general	Searches of persons in anticipation of violence under section 60	Searches of vehicles and occupants under section 44(1)	Searches of persons in order to prevent acts of terrorism under section 44(2)	Total
Leicestershire	24,181	837	4	5	25,027
East Midlands Region	64,905	1,522	8	5	66,440
England	1,004,004	52,592	59,697	51,630	1,177,923

2006-07

Police force area	Searches of persons under section 1—general	Searches of persons in anticipation of violence under section 60	Searches of vehicles and occupants under section 44(1)	Searches of persons in order to prevent acts of terrorism under section 44(2)	Total
Leicestershire	21,849	744	—	2	22,595
East Midlands Region	61,508	2,339	5	4	63,856
England	919,816	44,458	24,878	12,701	1,001,853

2005-06

Police force area	Searches of persons under section 1—general	Searches of persons in anticipation of violence under section 60	Searches of vehicles and occupants under section 44(1)	Searches of persons in order to prevent acts of terrorism under section 44(2)	Total
Leicestershire	17,923	1,039	1	27	18,990
East Midlands Region	52,904	2,317	11	223	55,455
England	848,400	35,596	28,861	18,781	931,638

2004-05

Police force area	Searches of persons under section 1—general	Searches of persons in anticipation of violence under section 60	Searches of vehicles and occupants under section 44(1)	Searches of persons in order to prevent acts of terrorism under section 44(2)	Total
Leicestershire	15,350	583	0	0	15,933
East Midlands Region	44,958	1,266	0	0	46,224
England	811,300	40,783	23,731	10,209	886,023

2003-04

Police force area	Searches of persons under section 1—general	Searches of persons in anticipation of violence under section 60	Searches of vehicles and occupants under section 44(1)	Searches of persons in order to prevent acts of terrorism under section 44(2)	Total
Leicestershire	12,523	1,005	7	2	13,537
East Midlands Region	38,585	1,384	7	2	39,978
England	710,826	40,409	25,118	7,501	783,854

Stop and Search: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* stopped and *(b)* searched under the provisions of section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in North Shropshire in each month of the last five years. [325421]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not hold statistics which are recorded in this way. The Home Office does collate statistics on the number of terrorism arrests and convictions and these are included in a Bulletin published for the first time on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008).

The second issue of the Bulletin was published on 26 November 2009 and, unlike the first edition, includes data on stop/searches under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. The bulletin is available via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

The third issue of this bulletin was published on 25 February 2010 and is available via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0410.pdf

In addition to the above bulletins, the Home Office publishes Statistics on Police Powers and Procedures, which includes a force by force breakdown of stop/searches under Section 44. The last edition of that bulletin (covering 2007-08) is available via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0709.pdf

The next edition of this bulletin (covering 2008-09) is scheduled to be published before the end of April 2010. Links to the bulletins covering the four years up to 2007-08 are included in the following:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/arrests-recorded-crime-engl-wales-2006-07-b.pdf

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/arrests-for-recorded-crime-england-and-wales.pdf

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb2105.pdf

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/hosb1804.pdf

War Crimes

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are plans to establish a specialist war crimes unit in the Metropolitan police. [323060]

Mr. Hanson: Arrangements already exist within the Metropolitan police service for dealing with allegations of war crimes in liaison with the Crown Prosecution Service, UKBA and other agencies as appropriate. These arrangements remain under review to ensure that they continue to be effective.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Aviation: Treaties

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to ratify the air protocol to the 2001 Cape Town Convention. [325045]

Ian Lucas: The UK played an active role in negotiations regarding the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment at the 2001 Diplomatic Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa. The UK is committed to its ratification, and will be issuing a Call for Evidence seeking stakeholder views on this matter in the near future.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of each. [324412]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* Events organised by the Department cover such matters as business summits, trade missions, conferences concerning EU issues and so on, where hospitality is not the only, or even the main cost. Often, the costs of such events are shared with other organisations. It is not possible to disaggregate the BIS hospitality costs of these events except at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from John Alty, dated 26 March 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 22nd March 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office does not generally host hospitality events, although it runs a number of outreach events and seminars on Intellectual Property issues. The Office has on occasion hosted launch events on specific issues. These include:

Artist Resale Rights: £625

Lambert Tool Kit: £2,495

IP Crime Report: £5,072

World IP day '09: £3,210

World IP day '08: £9.375

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 26 March 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (NMO) to your Parliamentary Question asking the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the cost and purpose of the five most expensive hospitality events in the last three years.

The five most expensive hospitality events hosted by the National Measurement Office in the last three years were:

1) A networking event to discuss reform of Weights and Measures regulations in line with Hampton principles held in London. Cost £6,024.30 in March 2008.

2) A networking event to discuss reform of Weights and Measures regulations in line with Hampton principles held in London. Cost £5,824.99 in January 2008. This was in addition to the above as it involved a different sector of stakeholders.

3) A metrology seminar in Birmingham at a cost of £5,820.45. This took place in November 2009.

4) A chemical and biological metrology seminar held in London at a cost of £5,328.67. This took place in November 2009.

5) A metrology seminar in Birmingham at a cost of £4,941.82. This took place in November 2008

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 25 March 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 22 March 2010, UIN 324412, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House does not host hospitality events.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 26 March 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question, to list the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies in the last three years; and what the (a) cost and (b) purpose was of each.

The Insolvency Service hosted a reception for its stakeholders in December 2007 at a cost of £4,177. This was attended principally by insolvency practitioners, members of the judiciary and people working in the debt advice sector (both commercial and charitable).

In April 2009, The Service held an internal ceremony to present awards to members of its staff who had obtained an award under one of The Service's bespoke qualification programmes. This work-related event was also attended by members of the awarding body, Nottingham Trent University, and some external training partners, 12 individuals in total. The cost of the refreshments provided to those attending from outside The Service was £640.

In October 2009, The Service held a half-day conference for stakeholders concerning its project to modernise the Insolvency Rules 1986. Refreshments were provided for the delegates at the end of the conference at a cost of £962.

Easter

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent consideration the Secretary of State has given to bringing into force the provisions of the Easter Act 1928 which fix the date of Easter; and if he will make a statement. [325707]

Mr. McFadden: The Easter Act 1928 remains on the statute book but the Act requires that before a draft order is laid before Parliament:

"regard shall be had to any opinion officially expressed by any Church or other Christian Body."

There are no plans to implement the provisions of the Act.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department plans to provide on *(a)* the steps an agency must undertake to establish the parameters for equal treatment from an end-user of agency workers under the Agency Worker Regulations 2010, *(b)* the extent to which measures undertaken by an agency to ascertain the information needed to provide equal treatment will be considered reasonable steps under section 14(3)(a) of the regulations and *(c)* safeguards for agencies from unreasonable liability where an end-user of agency workers does not accurately provide the information required to determine equal treatment under the regulations or attempts to indemnify against such liability. [325384]

Mr. McFadden: The Government fully understand the importance of providing clear, comprehensive guidance on the agency workers regulations prior to their entry into force. This will be drawn up in consultation with stakeholders and will address these and other issues.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to monitor the effects of the Agency Worker Regulations 2010 on the agency worker industry once they have entered into force. [325385]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are committed to post-implementation review (PIR) of new legislation in line with better regulation principles. The PIR would be used to identify whether the policy change is achieving the desired results. In the case of the agency workers regulations, a post implementation review is planned for 2013. It is expected that this will feed into the overall review of the Agency Workers Directive that the European Commission is required to carry out by December of that year by virtue of article 12.

Further Education: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Learning and Skills Council news release of 9 February 2010, entitled "Learning and Skills Council Honours Commitment to Help Colleges with Financial Problems", which of the 41 colleges to receive funding from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) are in London; which colleges in *(a)* England and *(b)* London were identified by the LSC as facing financial difficulty as a direct result of aborted capital spending; what assessment has been made of the extent of the financial difficulty faced by such colleges in (i) England and (ii) London; and how much funding will be provided to each college. [325568]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is committed to ensuring that no college experiences financial difficulty as a result of decisions taken on capital. As a result the LSC has now paid all contractual obligations and has granted £43 million in additional support to 42 colleges identified as experiencing or anticipating serious financial problems as a result of the programme. The LSC will continue to work with the sector to ensure that no further colleges get into financial difficulty as a result of developing a capital proposal. I am unable to provide financial details relating to individual colleges as they are commercially sensitive to the colleges involved.

Licensing Laws: Music

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many licensees of *(a)* pubs, *(b)* restaurants and *(c)* bars (i) applied for and (ii) were (A) granted and (B) refused licences to perform live music in (1) Montgomeryshire and (2) England in each year since 2007; and if he will make a statement. [325153]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not collate data specifically on premises licence applications for the provision of live music, and does not collate data by premises type. This is because the Licensing Act 2003 defines activities not premises type.

The number of premises licences with live music provisions in the Licensing Authority of Powys was 505 on 31 March 2007, 528 on 31 March 2008 and 559 on 31 March 2009.

The estimated total premises licences with live music provisions in England and Wales was 75,200 on 31 March 2007, 79,800 on 31 March 2008 and 83,600 on 31 March 2009.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications to vary licences for the provision of regulated entertainment in *(a)* pubs, *(b)* restaurants and *(c)* bars have been made in each year since 2007; and if he will make a statement. [325155]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not collate data specifically on applications to vary licences for the provision of regulated entertainment and does not collate data by premises type. This is because the Licensing Act defines activities not premises type.

The total number of applications to vary a premises licence in England and Wales is shown in the table.

Financial year	*Number of applications to vary premises licences*	*Number granted*	*Licensing authorities responding to the question (percentage)*
2006/07	9,534	9,050	80
2007/08	11,114	10,642	95
2008/09	7,473	7,004	97

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has undertaken costings of the policies of *(a)* the Conservative Party and *(b)* the Liberal Democrat Party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months. [324400]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury on 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1044W.

Optics: Technology

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Hauser review of the current and future role of technology and innovation centres in the UK considered the establishment and development of the Optic centre at St. Asaph Business Park. [325393]

Mr. Lammy: The Hauser review was not established with a view to identifying and prioritising centres that should receive support in the future and as such no assessment has been made of the Optic centre at St. Asaph Business Park. However, the report and recommendations provide a broad framework for future investment in technology and innovation centres. My noble Friend the Secretary of State has accepted these recommendations and has commissioned the Technology Strategy Board to work with industry, stakeholders, and wider government on how to implement the recommendations in the Hauser review and to report back by the pre-Budget report on the process, priority areas, scale of investment required and governance structure.

Student Loans Company: Redundancy

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with officials from the Student Loans Company regarding the redundancies at the company's Glasgow offices announced in January 2010. [324237]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Loans Company (SLC) is a non-departmental public body and decisions about staffing matters are for the company and its board. The chairman and senior executives of the company have discussions regularly with Ministers about the service the company provides for its customers. I was told by the chair of the SLC on 26 January 2010 that the company intended to announce its restructuring on the following day; and attended a meeting requested by the SLC branch of the Public and Commercial Services trade union on January 26.

UK Space Agency

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of officials at each pay band and *(b)* the administration costs of the UK Space Agency in 2010-11. [324901]

Mr. Lammy: The final staffing structure will be completed only when all discussions on post transfers are finalised. The current estimate of full-time equivalents translated to BIS grades is:

	Number
SCS	4
Grade 6/7	18.5
SEO/HEO/EO/AO	18.25

The above remains an estimate pending final agreement. Back office support for HR, finance and grants will be contracted from one or more of the existing partners.

The estimated administration costs, including staff costs for 2010/11 will be £3.2 million plus the back office function costs, which are funded by existing partners and the necessary transfers are still in negotiation.

There will be no increase in BNSC costs.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the remit of the UK Space Agency is; when he plans to appoint a Space Agency director; what resources he has allocated to the Space Agency in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* each of the next three financial years; and from which existing budgets such resources will be drawn. [324902]

Mr. Lammy: The remit of the United Kingdom Space Agency is to manage UK Government civil space programmes as an executive agency. The agency will also represent the UK in European and international forums. Dr David Williams, the Director General of the British National Space Centre (BNSC), will be the acting CEO from 1 April 2010.

A competition will be held to fill the new post of CEO for the UK Space Agency later this year. The agency will begin its role from 1 April 2010, so all 2009/10 budgets resided with existing BNSC partners and not the agency.

In 2010/11, the estimated budget is £230 million, but this is subject to final negotiations with existing BNSC partners.

The resources for 2010/11 will be drawn from programmes in BIS, the Technology Strategy Board, the Natural Environment Research Council, the Science and Technology Facilities Council, DEFRA, DfT and MOD.

Budgets beyond 2010/11 have not yet been set.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost of launching the UK Space Agency was; and what the cost of developing the Agency's *(a)* website and *(b)* logo was. [324903]

Mr. Lammy: The direct cost of creating the new UK Space Agency and re-branding the British National Space Centre is £46,500, relating to the launch event itself—note that this event also included the launch of the Government response to the Space IGT—the development of the logo, the protection of trademarks on the name and logo within the UK, and the website revamp. Of this £46,500, £1,000 was to revamp the website for its launch by 1 April, and £18,000 was for the logo design and its protection.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department commissioned external organisations to assist with the launch of the UK Space Agency. [325459]

Mr. Lammy: Yes, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills commissioned external organisations to assist with the launch of the UK Space Agency. These organisations helped handle interview requests from national, regional and trade media; and also captured video and photos of the event which will be used in future publications and online.

TREASURY

Council Tax

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Glenrothes of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 391W, on council tax, whether his Department has estimated the cost of a council tax freeze in *(a)* year one and *(b)* year two taking into account council tax benefit savings; [324496]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chorley of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 673, on council tax, what estimate he has made of the cost of a council tax freeze in England net of savings from council tax benefit payments. [324817]

Mr. Byrne: The estimates referred to on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 391W, and 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 673, are the cost to central Government of providing every council in England with top-up funding to compensate for freezing council tax for two years. This costing considered only the direct costs of providing a top-up, assumed to be equivalent to a 2.5 per cent. increase in band D bills in England.

The impact on council tax benefit of a two-year freeze on council tax has not been estimated.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Programme Board minutes of 22 November 2005, what the purpose and function is of Project 1.5; and what enhancements it has made to Project 1. [324119]

Ian Pearson: The purpose and function of Project 1.5 was to deliver a series of enhancements to Project 1. These enhancements did not alter the fundamental operation of the Automated Valuation Model (AVM) system but were a refinement of processes within, and outputs from, the system, together with the generation of additional management reports.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Programme Board minutes of 31 March 2003, paragraph 1.05, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Project Timetable. [324122]

Ian Pearson: The minutes refer to 'the "Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Project Timetable" (V01.14/03/2003)'.

This timetable was for initial scoping activity and is headed "Proof of Concept". A copy of the document is being placed in the Library.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax revaluation 2007 Programme Board minutes of 22 November 2005, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the Programme Closure documents PRMP-12, PRMP-37 and PRMP-38, redacting the names of junior civil servants. [324162]

Ian Pearson: Copies of these documents will be placed in the Library.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which opinion research company conducted the People's Panel research for the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Programme; what reports they produced; and what the cost was of that research. [324163]

Ian Pearson: ORC International conducted the People's Panel research work at a cost of £75,968. Two reports were produced, one presenting the output of focus groups and the other presenting that of in-depth interviews conducted with a sample of council taxpayers.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Programme Board minutes of 20 January 2004, paragraph 3, if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of the Omnibus survey. [324164]

Ian Pearson: A copy of the results of the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) Council Tax Omnibus Survey 2004 has been placed in the Library.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Programme Board minutes of 17 February 2004, paragraph 5, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* presentation from the Welsh office of the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* paper from statisticians. [324166]

Ian Pearson: The papers requested are not held by the Valuation Office Agency.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Programme Board minutes of 24 May 2004, paragraph 3, if he will place in the Library a copy of Handout 1 and Handout 2. [324167]

Ian Pearson: Copies of these documents will be placed in the Library.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Programme Board minutes of 23 November 2004, paragraph 7, if he will place in the Library a copy of the revised version of the Benefits Analysis document. [324171]

Ian Pearson: A copy of this document will be placed in the Library.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Programme Board minutes of 19 October 2004, paragraph 3.10, if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation on the insight to automated valuation model estimates; and in which areas the mini-revaluations took place. [324319]

Ian Pearson: This presentation was a live demonstration of emerging test modelling outputs and outcomes. As such there is no presentation that can be placed in the Library.

Prior to the postponement of the 2007 Council Tax Revaluation in England, 'Mini Revaluation' (later known as Test Modelling) exercises were carried out, in order to test and refine the automated valuation model, in the following billing authority areas:

Barrow-in-Furness
Birmingham
Blackpool
Bradford
Brighton and Hove
Bristol
Camden
Canterbury
Colchester
Derby
Ellesmere Port and Neston
Enfield
Gosport
Greenwich
Hillingdon
Ipswich
Kettering
Liverpool
Milton Keynes
Newham
North Tyneside
Oldham
Restormel
Rotherham
Sefton
South Ribble
Stockport
Stroud
Sutton
Tamworth
Tonbridge and Malling
Tower Hamlets
Wandsworth
Watford
West Berkshire
West Lindsey

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Programme Board minutes of 25 May 2005, if he will place in the Library a copy of the paper presenting the case for the acquisition of Rightmove data. [324365]

Ian Pearson: A copy of this document, with commercially sensitive information redacted, will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will issue guidance on his Department's policy on the relocation offshore of departmental jobs to companies bidding for contracts let by his Department. [324792]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Government's written evidence to the Treasury Sub-Committee's inquiry into Estate Management in the Chancellor's Departments, HC 852-i 2007-08, Ev 37.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Office of Government Commerce has made of the extent of the use of *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies within buildings occupied by (i) central Government Departments and (ii) the Government estate since the publication of the Delivery Plan for Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate. [324953]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* The Office of Government Commerce recommends reducing the voltage of supplied electricity, including voltage optimisation to central Government Departments as one means to achieving the target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11.

Government hold data on voltage reduction. However, the element of voltage optimisation is not disaggregated within this.

Two Departments are already making use of a framework agreement for voltage reduction and/or optimisation technology and we estimate that a further seven Departments and wider Members of the Government estate are planning usage of improving voltage supply technologies in their buildings across the Government estate.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Syms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip Northwood of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental marketing, how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies, *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(d)* the Valuation Office Agency have spent on advertising, marketing, public relations and publicity in relation to the (i) Real Help Now and (ii) Building Britain's Future themed campaign to date. [320496]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: For HM Treasury, the "Real Help Now" endorsement phrase has been included in some marketing material to promote the Money Guidance pilot service in the north west and north east of England between April 2009 and March 2010. The marketing campaign is aimed at raising awareness of the service as a free source of impartial help for families on personal finance matters. The service is available to all but is targeted at those most vulnerable to poor financial decision making. Some of the marketing material on TV, local radio and local press advertising carried the "Real Help Now" logo. There were no additional costs to the campaign as a result of including "Real Help Now". In total just under £3 million has been spent marketing the Money Guidance pathfinder service since April 2009.

For HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), £1.4 million has been spent on the "Real Help Now" cross-government campaign; £230,000 of the total was funded by HMRC with the balance coming from other Government Departments. Two further campaigns included "Real Help Now" identifiers. £388,000 was spent on the Business Payments Support Service advertising campaign which carried the "Real Help for Business Now" logo and £165,000 was spent on those elements of the Payments for Parents campaign which carried the "Real Help for Families Now" logo. All of the spending was funded from within existing departmental budgets.

No spending on Building Britain's Future-themed campaigns was reported by any of the Departments, and no spending on "Real Help Now" was reported by the Valuation Office Agency, Debt Management Office or the Office of Government Commerce.

Economic Situation: Multiple Births

Mr. Cox: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the financial situation of multiple birth families; and if he will make a statement. [325185]

Mr. Timms: The Government's system of financial support for families recognises the additional costs involved in multiple births as child benefit and child tax credits are paid per child to eligible families.

The Sure Start maternity grant, which is specifically intended to help people on certain benefits and tax credits to meet the immediate needs of a new baby, is also paid per child. The Health in Pregnancy grant is intended to provide financial support for women during pregnancy, not to their children after birth and the grant is therefore paid per pregnancy.

Employment

Mr. Leech: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector jobs contracted to deliver public services which were relocated offshore in each of the last 10 years. [323941]

Mr. Byrne: No specific estimate has been made of the number of public and private sector jobs contracted to deliver public services relocated off-shore.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of Equitable Life pension fund members resident in City of York constituency. [324225]

Mr. Byrne: The Treasury does not hold the details of Equitable Life pension fund members resident in City of York constituency.

EU Grants and Loans: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding from the *(a)* European Social Fund and *(b)* European Regional Development Fund was available to Wales in (a) 2009-10 and (b) each of the last 10 financial years; how much such funding from each fund was drawn down in respect of Wales in each of those years; and how much such funding from each fund he expects to be available to Wales in each of the next two financial years. [325146]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* The UK Government are responsible for managing the UK's overall contribution to the EU budget. However, the management of the EU social fund and regional development fund in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government and the EU Commission.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on the level of EU funding for Wales of the new cohesion policy provided for by the Lisbon Treaty. [325148]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* The management of EU structural fund programmes in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government and the EU Commission.

Government Departments: Bank Cards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Government procurement cards were reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in the last year for which figures are available. [323522]

Ian Pearson: 3,316 Government Procurement Cards were officially reported lost or stolen during the period January to December 2009.

Buying Solutions, an Executive agency of the Office of Government Commerce, and the banks that issue the Government Procurement cards take lost and stolen cards very seriously. Buying Solutions provides advice to departments on how to reduce the risk of card fraud and each of the card issuers provides guidance to cardholders and programme administrators on the importance of keeping cards safe. Card issuers also use statement messaging to advise customers on security.

Government Departments: Buildings

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what targets have been set for Government departments to reduce the cost of their estates; and what estimate he has made of the likely level of savings in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [323207]

Mr. Byrne: Through the High Performing Property (HPP) programme Government has targeted annual real running cost savings of between £1 billion and £1.5 billion per annum by 2013 from the central civil Government estate, not broken down by individual Departments. This target saving contributes to the target announced in Budget 2010 to save £5 billion per annum in property running costs through more effective management of assets and property across the whole public sector.

The State of the Estate for 2009 reports that the Government estate is performing better than the private sector in a number of key areas. The annual real cost of running the estate, adjusted for inflation, has fallen by 17 per cent., equivalent to a reduction of approximately £740 million since 2003-04. This achieves the interim targeted annual savings of between £600 million and £800 million by March 2011. No target was set for 2009-10 or 2011-12. Government Departments are therefore on track to meet the HPP target savings.

Government Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total cost to the public purse was of expenditure by Government departments on consultancies in the last year for which figures are available; and what the estimated level of such expenditure is in each of the next three years. [324211]

Mr. Byrne: The most recent year for which public expenditure on consultancy is available 2008-09. These data were published by the Office of Government Commerce alongside Budget 2010 in the "Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey 2009"

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/publicspending

The expenditure set out here will be reduced by 50 per cent. a year by 2012-13, as set in the pre-Budget report 2009.

Government Departments: Marketing

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 604W, on Government departments: marketing, (1) what the estimated cash value is of the level of marketing and communications spend in 2009-10 on which the 25 per cent. cut will be based; [324207]

(2) what the base *(a)* year and *(b)* cash value is of the level of consultancy spend on which the cut of 50 per cent. will be based. [324208]

Mr. Byrne: Budget 2010 announced that over £11 billion of savings have now been identified by Department for the years from 2012-13. This includes the consultancy, marketing and communications cuts which were identified based on 2008-09 spending levels, currently the most recent financial year that spending levels are available for. The 2008-09 spend is set out in the 'Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey 2009', published alongside the Budget.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 604W, on Government departments: marketing, what the estimated level of savings is from reducing consultancy and marketing/advertising spend in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [324209]

Mr. Byrne: Budget 2010 announced that over £11 billion of savings have now been identified by Departments for the years from 2012-13. This includes over £650 million by 2012-13 from reducing departmental consultancy spend by 50 per cent. and departmental marketing and communications spend by 25 per cent. from 2008-09

spending levels, currently the most recent financial year that spending levels are available for. The 2008-09 spend is set out in the "Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey 2009", published alongside the Budget, it will be up to Departments to decide how they implement these cuts to ensure they meet the targets by 2012-13.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the total cash spend on marketing, advertising and public relations by central Government in the last 12 months; and what proportion of such expenditure was made through the Central Office of Information. [324213]

Mr. Byrne: Central Government departmental total cash spend on marketing, advertising and public relations is collected by financial year. Therefore the most recent data collected cover financial year 2008-09. This information was published by department and non-departmental public body alongside Budget 2010 by the Office of Government Commerce in "Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey 2009".

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/publicspending

Government Departments: Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the policy of approving bonus payments of over £50,000 will apply to all staff. [323580]

Mr. Byrne: The 2009 pre-Budget report announced a set of fundamental reforms to pay-setting for senior staff, as part of this, I will approve all bonus payments of over £50,000 where ministerial sign-off is needed. For public sector bodies where ministerial approval is not required, the Government expect all organisations making any bonus payments in excess of £50,000, to publicly justify this level to the relevant Secretary of State.

Government: Cost Effectiveness

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 26 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 806W, on public expenditure, whether the £500 million of savings by reducing duplication between organisations will include savings delivered by the Total Place initiative; and whether Total Place savings will be allocated to *(a)* central and *(b)* local government. [324121]

Mr. Byrne: The Government announced in pre-Budget report 2009 that at least £500 million would be saved by 2012-13 by reducing duplication between organisations and streamlining arm's length bodies. Budget 2010 gives further detail on how these savings will be achieved.

These savings are being delivered as part of the Government's commitment to deliver £11 billion of savings by 2012-13, set out in "Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government" and are separate from any savings identified through Total Place. The Total Place report, published on 25 March 2010, set out further details of how savings will be achieved.

Infrastructure: Expenditure

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what budget has been allocated for the work to be undertaken by Infrastructure UK in its investigation into the cost of delivering major infrastructure projects in the UK referred to in paragraph 4.4 of the report on Strategy for National Infrastructure. [325102]

Mr. Byrne: Infrastructure UK is setting up a steering group for the investigation into the cost of delivery, initially with the Government's chief construction adviser and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Office of Government Commerce and the Department for Transport. A budget for the investigation has not yet been agreed between Infrastructure UK and these organisations.

Local Government: Cost Effectiveness

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 25 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 598W, on local government: cost effectiveness, what methodology was used to identify £550 million as the expected figure for savings from local government; and what arrangements will be made for local authorities unable to reach their targets for efficiency savings. [323201]

Mr. Byrne: The 2009 pre-Budget report sets out a number of areas where local government will be able to find efficiency savings over the next spending period, of £550 million per year by 2012-13.

Departments have worked closely to explore potential savings across the different functions and service areas of local authorities, and the scope for local initiatives that have delivered savings to be taken up more widely. It is for individual local authorities to make efficiencies based on local priorities and use of resources.

During the CSR 2007 period, local authorities have been free to use savings to hold down council tax or reinvest in other services. Councils do not have individual targets, but where a council is failing to deliver the level of efficiencies expected of the sector as a whole, we would expect the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership and local government office to play an active role in supporting the council.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the working estimate is of the cash value of local government's contribution to the Operational Efficiency Programme's target of £8 billion of efficiency savings by 2012-13; and whether the £8 billion of annual savings are cumulative by 2012-13. [323578]

Mr. Byrne: Budget 2010 provided an update on the £8 billion of Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) savings and the £3 billion cross-cutting savings by 2012-13. Details of the proportion of these savings contributed by local government are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1516900

The £8 billion annual OEP savings are savings to be delivered by 2012-13, against a baseline year of 2010-11.

These are not cumulative savings. More detail on OEP savings numbers is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/oep_final_report_210409_pu728.pdf

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what notification to the Valuation Office Agency is required of business rate payers when a hereditament is split; and how many such notifications were made in each year since 2000. [320065]

Ian Pearson: Ratepayers may make a formal proposal to the local Valuation Officer asking that a hereditament be treated as more than one hereditament (split) but there is no legal requirement to advise the Valuation Officer of this. The number of rating proposals made from 2000 in England and Wales to split is shown in the following table:

	Number of rating proposals
April 2000 to March 2001	8,250
April 2001 to March 2002	6,830
April 2002 to March 2003	6,310
April 2003 to March 2004	6,260
April 2004 to March 2005	8,550
April 2005 to March 2006	3,960
April 2006 to March 2007	3,600
April 2007 to March 2008	3,330
Apr 2008 to March 2009	5,040
April 2009 to February 2010	4,080
Total	56,210

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest ten.

Rating list entries are also split as a direct result of information being supplied to the valuation officer by either the respective billing authority or by the valuation officer becoming aware of the need to alter an entry in the rating list. The number of reports made since 2000 in England and Wales by billing authorities is shown in the following table:

	Number of billing authority and VO reports to split
April 2000 to March 2001	40,570
April 2001 to March 2002	9,910
April 2002 to March 2003	29,670
April 2003 to March 2004	30,680
April 2004 to March 2005	28,540
April 2005 to March 2006	47,130
April 2006 to March 2007	30,520
April 2007 to March 2008	32,610
April 2008 to March 2009	34,900
April 2009 to February 2010	31,050
Total	335,570

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest ten.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency spent on administering the separate rating of port companies in each year since 1999; and how many of the agency's staff worked on such rating in each of those years. [325560]

Ian Pearson: The VOA does not keep records of expenditure on or the number of staff involved in the assessment of separate hereditaments within statutory ports going back to 1999. Staff involved in work on the ports undertake general rating work in other locations and work in other business streams.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 605W, on non-domestic rates, what the change in rateable value on the ratings list resulting from rateable value appeals was in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [321344]

Ian Pearson: To correspond with the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 605W, the information provided is in respect of valid rating appeals received 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2009 and settled as at 30 June 2009.

The period covers the:

2000 Rating Lists—effective 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2005

2005 Rating Lists—effective 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2010

The compiled list statistics shows overall reduction in rateable value resulting from appeals against the compiled rating list entries, i.e. appeals challenging the original entries in the rating lists, effective from either 1 April 2000 or 1 April 2005.

The column labelled "others" shows the reduction in rateable value resulting from all other appeals. These are appeals where circumstances have changed since the lists were compiled and the rating assessment requires amendment.

		Compiled List	*Others*
	Appeals received in	*RV change (£000)*	*RV change (£000)*
1	*2*	*4*	*6*
England	2004-05	-29,785	-538,362
England	2005-06	-817,768	-390,510
England	2006-07	-388,963	-549,049
England	2007-08	-164,470	-522,566
England	2008-09	-55,897	-348,893
Wales	2004-05	-954	-17,163
Wales	2005-06	-33,391	-8,198
Wales	2006-07	-8,805	-16,679
Wales	2007-08	-4,357	-10,648
Wales	2008-09	-1,032	-11,642
England and Wales	2004-05	-30,740	-555,525
England and Wales	2005-06	-851,159	-398,708
England and Wales	2006-07	-397,768	-565,728
England and Wales	2007-08	-168,827	-533,214
England and Wales	2008-09	-56,929	-360,535

The above figures were extracted from the Valuation Office Agency operational database.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many hereditaments with rateable values over £50,000 in each local authority area are on the 2010 Rating List. [323440]

Ian Pearson: I have placed a table in the Library which sets out how many hereditaments in each local authority have a rateable value over £50,000.

These data are consistent with the statistical release titled "Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists—England and Wales" published on 18 December 2009.

A copy of this statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average rateable value of hereditaments is in each local authority area. [323526]

Ian Pearson: I have placed a table in the Library which sets out the average rateable value in each local authority.

These data are consistent with the statistical release titled "Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists—England and Wales" published on 18 December 2009.

A copy of this statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

Pakistan

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Chief Secretary to the Treasury's itinerary for his recent official visit to Pakistan; [324694]

(2) whether the Chief Secretary to the Treasury's recent visit to Pakistan was wholly, exclusively and necessarily on Government business. [325111]

Mr. Byrne: Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. From 2007-08 the list was expanded to include all Ministers. The list also provides information on the purpose of the visit and the number of officials who accompany Ministers. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2009-10 will be published as soon as it is available. All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Code respectively.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 26 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 803W, on Pre-Budget Report 2009, what estimate he has made of the value in cash terms of expenditure on *(a)* consultancies and *(b)* marketing and communications in 2009-10. [322877]

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 26 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 806W, on public expenditure, for what reason the marketing and communications spend is to be reduced against a 2009-10 baseline and the consultancy spend is to be reduced according to a 2008-09 baseline. [323531]

Mr. Byrne: Budget 2010 announced that over £11 billion of savings have now been identified by Department for the years from 2012-13. This includes the consultancy, marketing and communications cuts which were identified based on 2008-09 spending levels, currently the most recent financial year that spending levels are available for. The 2008-09 spend is set out in the "Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey 2009", published alongside Budget.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 26 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 806W, on public expenditure, what the reason is for the base year chosen to calculate savings on expenditure on *(a)* consultancy and *(b)* marketing and communications. [324478]

Mr. Byrne: Budget 2010 announced that over £11 billion of savings have now been identified by Departments for the years from 2012-13. This includes over £650 million by 2012-13 from reducing departmental consultancy spend by 50 per cent. and departmental marketing and communications spend by 25 per cent. from 2008-09 spending levels. These spending levels were chosen because they are the most recent financial year that spending levels are available for. The 2008-09 spend is set out in the "Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey 2009", published alongside the Budget.

Public Expenditure: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Barnett consequentials are for Wales of the savings to be made by each Department following Budget 2010. [325145]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* In Budget 2010 the Welsh Assembly Government received an additional £48 million in 2010-11 as Barnett consequentials of increases in spending of UK Departments. Budgets for 2011-12 onwards will be set in the next spending review in the usual way.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much money is available to the Welsh Assembly Government under the Barnett formula for financial year 2010-11. [325312]

Mr. Byrne: Budget 2010 announced an increase of £48 million for the Welsh Assembly Government in 2010-11. The Welsh Assembly Government's budget plans for 2010-11 are set out in Table C11 of the Budget 2010 Report (HC 451). The final outturn for 2010-11 will not be known until spring 2011.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the consequential changes are to Government expenditure in Wales arising from the £11 billion savings announced by Government departments consequent on the Financial Statement and Budget Report. [325347]

Mr. Byrne: The departmental expenditure limits for the Welsh Assembly Government will be determined in the next spending review in the usual way.

Public Sector: Databases

John Thurso: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Operational Efficiency Programme, what discussions his Department has had with private sector organisations on the role of common electronic standards for data analysis and exchange of information in the management of the public sector estate. [325169]

Mr. Byrne: Discussions have taken place last autumn between officials from the Office of Government Commerce and OSCRE (Open Standards Consortium for Real Estate, formerly known as PISCES). An electronic standard (Civil Estate Co-ordination Protocol) for the exchange of data within central Government is currently in place.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* average time taken for a call to be answered, *(b)* average time spent waiting in a call queue, *(c)* average call duration, *(d)* number of unanswered calls, *(e)* average response time for a return call and *(f)* percentage of calls returned was in call centres operated by HM Revenue and Customs in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010 to date; and if he will make a statement. [325152]

Mr. Timms: The information requested, where available, is provided in the following table.

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*April 2009 to February 2010*
Average time for a call to be answered (mm:ss)[1]	01:26	01:57	01:29
Average time spent waiting in a call queue[1]	As above	As above	As above
Average call duration (mm:ss)[2]	05:27	05:59	06:31
Number of unanswered calls (Million)[3]	24.5	43.7	16.4

[1] Defined as the time taken for a call to be answered by an adviser once a customer has selected an option from the call steering menu.
[2] This includes the time the customer speaks to an adviser and any follow-up actions the adviser may need to take (e.g. updating customer's records).
[3] Defined as the difference between the call attempts made to HMRC's telephone helplines and the call attempts answered by advisers, less calls answered with an automated message.

In July 2009 HM Revenue and Customs introduced a range of automated information messages on its helplines whose purpose includes enabling customers to gain the information they need without speaking to an adviser. From April 2009 to February 2010, five million calls had been handled in this way, helping to reduce the 'unanswered calls' to 16.4 million.

HMRC's systems do not capture information on return calls.

Taxation: Domicile

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will take steps to ensure that UK nationals may not be non-domiciled for income tax purposes if evidence shows that to all intents and purposes the UK is their main residence; [324333]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the number of days spent in the UK for nationals who were non-domiciled for tax purposes. [324334]

Mr. Timms: The Government reformed the rules on the taxation of non-domiciled individuals in 2008 to make them fairer.

An individual's liability to UK tax on their worldwide income and gains is linked to their residence and domicile status.

Tax residence in part depends on the amount of time spent in the UK but the other connections an individual builds or maintains in the UK may also be significant.

Domicile is a general law concept that is used for some tax purposes. It is separate to residence and does not depend on the number of days spent in the UK. Someone who is UK resident has significant connections to the UK, the current rules act to ensure that they make an appropriate contribution to the UK tax system.

Further guidance is available at:
http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/cnr/hmrc6.pdf

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the number of UK nationals who are non-domiciled for income tax purposes. [324335]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* No such estimate has been made. Individuals are not required to indicate whether they are UK nationals on their self-assessment tax return.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the loss to the Exchequer arising from UK nationals who are non-domiciled for tax purposes in the latest period for which figures are available. [324336]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* No such estimate has been made. Individuals, including those who are non-domiciled, are not required to declare any income and gains that are not taxable in the UK when completing their self-assessment tax return.

UK Membership of EC: West Midlands

Richard Burden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on the economy of *(a)* Birmingham and *(b)* the West Midlands of the inclusion of the UK in the EU single market. [325247]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

No estimate has been made in relation specifically to Birmingham or the West Midlands.

The benefit of free trade across the EU is estimated to boost GDP by over 2 per cent. For the UK that equates to benefits of around £25-£30 billion a year.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 902W, on the Valuation Office, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the user guidance and manuals for the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* Digital Mapping User Guide, *(b)* RSA Induction Workbook and *(c)* Digital Photography User Guide, with information that could assist with unauthorised access redacted. [324323]

Ian Pearson: The Digital Mapping User Guide, RSA Induction Workbook and Digital Photography User Guide are technical instructions on the operation of Valuation Office Agency (VOA) internal IT applications. It is not appropriate to publish information which might assist unauthorised access to VOA systems or databases. The manuals have been written specifically to provide detail of accessing and operating these applications. Accordingly, it is not possible to redact only specific parts that could assist with unauthorised access.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff *(a)* there were and *(b)* were made redundant from the Valuation Office Agency in each year since 1999; what efficiency savings the agency made in each of those years; and how much the agency spent on legal advice in each of those years. [325557]

Ian Pearson: For the number of staff in the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) *(a)* I refer the hon. member to the answer given to him on 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 75W and *(b)* no staff have been made redundant since 1999.

Under the current spending review period the income the VOA receives from its statutory clients has been reducing year on year by at least 5 per cent. per annum, in 2010-11 the current assumptions are that the VOA income will reduce from clients by a range of 5 per cent. to 13 per cent. These savings are counted as efficiency savings for the departments providing funding to the VOA to avoid double counting.

Nevertheless the VOA tracks its efficiency record and using the HM Treasury basis for calculating these the efficiencies delivered in the current spending round are £13.3 million in 2008-09 increasing to a planned £24.0 million in 2009-10 (these figures are cumulative). In addition the VOA has completed the Revaluation 2010 project across England and Wales at no additional costs to the taxpayer whilst maintaining its performance targets creating a further efficiency of £52 million—a total of approximately £76 million.

In addition, as part of its commitment to value for money the VOA has also committed to £15 million savings in the Operational Efficiency programme over the next three years.

The VOA publishes its legal services costs in its annual report and accounts to Parliament and a copy for each financial year is available in the Library. From 2000 an electronic copy is available on the VOA's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Solicitors advice is provided under a service level agreement, the fee for which is included within the service charge payment to HMRC. Counsel's opinion is obtained for the VOA via HMRC Solicitors and charged back to the agency together with other disbursements such as lodging and hearing fees, and any costs awarded against the VOA.

It is not possible to identify the element purely attributed to legal advice without incurring disproportionate costs.

Valuation Office Agency: Contracts

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 522W, on the Valuation Office: contracts, what expenditure his Department incurred with *(a)* the Whitehall and Industry Group, *(b)* the Public and Commercial Services Union, *(c)* Prospect (ex IPMS), *(d)* Propaganda and *(e)* Making Change Happen in 2008-09; what goods and services were procured in each case; and what the purpose was of each such procurement. [323191]

Ian Pearson: Expenditure incurred by the Valuation Office Agency was as follows:

(a) Attendance for delegates at the Whitehall and Industry conferences in June and December 2008 and fees in recruiting non executive directors for the agency were £10,089.

(b) and *(c)* None. Payments to trade unions such as the Public and Commercial Services Union and Prospect represent subscriptions from staff who are members of those unions. The agency deducts these fees as part of its payroll processes and pays them to the unions on behalf of those staff who are members. As such this is not agency expenditure.

(d) Marketing material at the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation conference, cost £475.

(e) Training material for performance and coaching, in relation to Making Change Happen in 2008-09, cost £352.

Valuation Office Agency: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what bonuses have been awarded to each board member and director of the Valuation Office Agency in each of the last three years. [324320]

Ian Pearson: To provide this information would require the personal consent of all individual board members. Some of these individuals are no longer with the agency. To obtain all the necessary consents would incur disproportionate cost. Remuneration information for board members is detailed in the VOA annual report and accounts.

Valuation Office Agency: Visits Abroad

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1629-30W, on the Valuation Office: overseas visits, what overseas visits representatives of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) have undertaken in the last 12 months; what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such

visit; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each (i) presentation made and (ii) handout distributed by VOA staff at each overseas conference attended in the last 12 months. [323090]

Ian Pearson: During the last 12 months staff from the Valuation Office Agency have visited the following locations:

(a) Purpose	*(b) Destination*	*(c) Cost (£)*	*(d) Handout/Presentations*
Speaker at International Property Tax Institute	South Africa	2,875	I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 178W
Speaker at Joint IRRV/IPTI International Conference	Poland	561	A copy of the presentation will be placed in the Library
Expert Witness at Lands Tribunal	Hong Kong	168	None
Participant at NSG Top Management Programme	India	519	None
Speaker at European Valuation Standards Conference	Poland	73	I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 179W
Attendee at Joint workshop on Cadastral Systems, Inspire Implementation and E-signature and Plenary Meeting of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union	Prague	474	None

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer question 305530, tabled by the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge on 4 December 2009, on alcohol and entertainment. [321186]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have now replied to the hon. Member and apologise for the delay in doing so.

HEALTH

Blood

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that haemophilia patients will not be required to switch blood products as a consequence of the outcome of his Department's recent tendering exercise in respect of blood products. [325451]

Gillian Merron: Patients with haemophilia are no longer generally treated with products manufactured from human plasma (blood products). Almost all are now treated with recombinant (biosynthetic) factor VIII. It is expected that about 50 per cent. of patients will change from one brand of recombinant product to another, following the tendering exercise.

Some small children with haemophilia will not change products either because they have always been treated with the same brand or because they are having treatment for a factor VIII inhibitor. Patients have now been notified by their haemophilia centres of the proposal to either change their brand or to continue to prescribe the brand that they are already receiving and to invite them to consult the centre if they have any concerns.

The tender has taken place with the full support and active involvement of the Haemophilia Society representing patients and the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation (UKHCDO). UKHCDO have advised that all of the available brands of recombinant products are equally safe and effective.

Breast Cancer: Ethnic Groups

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what models his Department uses to assess prevalence of breast cancer by ethnic minority grouping. [325546]

Ann Keen: We do not hold information on the prevalence of breast cancer by ethnic minority grouping. However, we are working on models to allow us to assess prevalence by ethnic minority grouping.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which cancer centres are located in a hospital building without the ancillary services of an acute hospital; [325010]

(2) which gynaecological cancer centres are located within *(a)* a maternity hospital and *(b)* an acute hospital; [325011]

(3) which gynaecological cancer centres lack an on-site intensive therapy unit (ITU); and whether he plans to relocate any such centres to hospitals which do have an on-site ITU. [325012]

Ann Keen: Information concerning the location of cancer centres within hospital buildings is not collected centrally.

Decisions regarding the placement of cancer centres are the responsibility of local national health service hospital trusts and primary care trusts and are made in conjunction with cancer networks and other stakeholders.

Cancer: Waiting Lists

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average time was that patients in Merseyside waited for the start of treatment for ovarian cancer in the most recent year for which figures are available. [325003]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Civil Servants

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which senior civil servants in his Department left to take up jobs in the for-profit or not-for-profit healthcare sector in the last two years. [324999]

Phil Hope: The Department does not hold records on the employment of former staff after they leave the Department.

Rules on civil servants taking up outside business appointments are published in the Civil Service Management Code (section 4.3) which can be found at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/work/codes/csmc/index.aspx

Section 4.3 annex A contains the full guidance on accepting outside business appointments. The Department complies fully with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code in ensuring adherence to the business appointments procedure.

These rules are also referred to in the Directory of Civil Service Guidance, available at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/civil_service/civil_service_guidance.aspx

Standard employment contracts for all senior civil servants refer to the rules on outside business appointments.

Dementia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many letters he has received on his Department's most recent dementia awareness campaign in the last six months. [324894]

Phil Hope: Information about the number of letters of correspondence on the information campaign is not collected centrally.

Dental Services: Bognor Regis

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons dentists at the Maywood Surgery and Flansham Park Surgery in Bognor Regis were not invited to bid for the contract to provide dental services in the Bognor Regis area. [325655]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning dental services to meet the needs of their population.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department and its agencies have spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324440]

Phil Hope: The Department and its agencies spent the following on rooms provided for staff leisure in the last five years:

	£
2005-06	253,550
2006-07	266,000
2007-08	285,590
2008-09	230,590
2009-10	267,070

These are the full costs of providing these rooms and have been calculated and based on a square metre percentage of the overall costs for the buildings where leisure facilities are available.

The response covers the Department's central administrative London estate of Richmond house, Wellington house and Skipton house, the properties of the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority.

The Department is a minor occupier in New Kings Beam house (HM Revenue and Customs) and Quarry house in Leeds (Department for Work and Pensions) and the data for these sites are not available to us.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324560]

Phil Hope: There are gym facilities in two of the Department's buildings—Skipton house in London and Quarry house in Leeds. Staff who are members of HASSRA, the sports and social association for staff working in the Department and its Executive agencies can access these facilities. HASSRA owns the gym equipment in Skipton house and the gym is run by club members. HASSRA does not own the gym at Quarry house, which is run by a private company.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324678]

Phil Hope: Like most organisations, the Department has a rolling refurbishment programme. It is not possible to identify separately, in all cases, the elements within this programme that relate to interior design, because it is often commissioned by the main contractor responsible for carrying out the refurbishment.

In the last five years, the Department employed interior designers directly on two occasions. This was in financial year 2005-06, at a total cost of £94,251.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324975]

Phil Hope: The Department is currently looking at the feasibility of installing voltage optimisers across the Department's London estate as part of our Carbon Management Programme to reduce energy consumption.

There are no equivalent technologies used within buildings occupied by the Department in its central administrative estate which consists of Richmond house, London SW1A, Wellington house, London SE1, and Skipton house, London SE1. The Department is a minor occupier in New Kings Beam house, London SE1 (a HM Revenue and Customs building) and Quarry house in Leeds LS2 (a Department for Work and Pensions building).

Departmental Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account his Department's food procurement policy takes of animal welfare. [325528]

Phil Hope: In line with DEFRA guidance regarding sustainable development and animal welfare issues, the Department of Health works with its catering and hospitality suppliers to ensure that they abide by the highest standards of animal welfare in their food procurement policy.

Quadrant Catering and Eurest Services provide staff restaurant and hospitality catering for Department of Health staff and are both part of Compass Group United Kingdom and Ireland, one of the United Kingdom's largest contract caterers, who have an excellent record in ethical food procurement.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has incurred expenditure on antique furniture in the last five years. [325108]

Phil Hope: No expenditure has been incurred by the Department on antique furniture in the last five years.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325196]

Phil Hope: The Department received the following number of complaints regarding difficulties operating the Department's website in each of the last three years.

	Number
2009-10[1]	262
2008-09	255
2007-08	349

[1] Figures for March 2010 are not yet available.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325214]

Phil Hope: The Department operates two main websites:

1. The Department's corporate website
www.dh.gov.uk

2. NHS Choices
www.nhs.uk

For the Department's corporate website, the following amounts have been spent on external website design consultancy:

	£
2007-08	34,250.00
2008-09	6,748.19
2009-10	9,949.00

NHS Choices development and delivery is provided through an outsourced contract. From June 2007 to November 2008 this was provided through Doctor Foster Intelligence. Since November 2008, this has been provided by Capita. The overall contract value for Capita for the design, development and delivery of the NHS Choices digital service is £60 million over three years.

It is not possible to disaggregate specific website design elements from this contract as they are inherent in the improvement and delivery of the overall service.

Since 27 June 2007 the Department has reduced the total number of websites that it operates from 196 to 71, to meet its obligations under Transformational Government. The Department will continue to reduce this number to just two websites by the Cabinet Office deadline of July 2011.

Given the high number of websites that were in existence between March 2007 and January 2010, it is not possible to provide information on costs for all of these, as this would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what *(a)* the cost and *(b)* purpose of each such event was. [324657]

Phil Hope: The Department is unable to provide information on the five most expensive events hosted by the Department and its agencies, where hospitality has been offered, as this information is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The Department's Code of Business Conduct states that a blanket ban on accepting or providing hospitality is neither practical nor desirable from a business point of view.

However, there must be a real business benefit to providing or accepting hospitality, as public money must not be used to fund occasions such as social gatherings, retirement or office parties.

This is in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1399W, on home care services: finance, what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* administration and *(b)* management consultants in 2009-10. [321610]

Phil Hope: The Department's administration budget does not meet all the costs of administering major programmes funded from the Department's central budgets.

The Department's administration budget for 2009-10 was set out in the spring supplementary estimates at £218 million. The spring supplementary estimates are available on the HM Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/springsupps0910_doh.pdf

Data on the estimated spend by the Department on management consultants for 2009-10 are not available in the format requested. Information for the full year 2009-2010 will be published in due course, after it has been validated.

Departmental Sick Leave

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sick days were taken by staff of his Department in each month of each year since 1997. [324940]

Phil Hope: Providing an analysis of sickness absence by individual months for the last 13 years would incur disproportionate cost.

For the 12 months ending 30 June 2009, the core Department's average reported working days lost per person was 4.8 days. This is one of the lowest rates in Government. The civil service average for the same period was 8.7 days.

However, the Department continues to give this issue the importance it deserves and the Department's human resources division has policies and procedures in place to help manage and support the response to sickness absence.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residential places were available for drug rehabilitation of under 18-year-olds in England in each year since 2000. [306051]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Information is not held centrally about the number of residential places available across the country that are able to support young people with substance misuse and other complex needs.

For the vast majority of young people under 18 community-based services are the most appropriate option. In addition, local authorities can arrange a package of support that combines specialist drug treatment with specialist children's home, fostering places or other supported accommodation.

Family Nurse Partnership Programme

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in the original 2007 pilots of the family nurse partnerships; and which of those pilots is planned to be developed for wider implementation. [325674]

Ann Keen: The original 10 Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) test sites are currently being evaluated by Birkbeck college, university of London. The second year report of the evaluation suggests that the programme is being delivered well; that it is successful in engaging the most vulnerable clients, who value it highly; and that it is also successful in engaging fathers. The evaluation also points to early signs that clients cope better with pregnancy, labour and parenthood, have aspirations for the future and that FNP is having a positive effect on reducing smoking during pregnancy and increasing rates of breastfeeding.

The learning from the evaluation and from other learning and development projects in these 10 sites has been invaluable and is being used more widely as we expand and develop FNP in this country. Approximately 4,000 families have benefited from FNP to date, and we are currently working with over 50 sites.

Clients in the original 10 sites are reaching the end of the FNP programme. Expansion in these sites is a decision for local commissioners, but nine sites have started to recruit a new cohort of clients and have expanded their teams. Eight of these sites are also now participating in a randomised controlled trial of FNP, along with 10 newer test sites, which will report in 2013.

General Practitioners: Primary Care Trusts

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from general practitioners on their funding from primary care trusts. [325135]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department and NHS Employers (responsible for negotiating the general practitioner (GP) contract on the Departments behalf) are in regular dialogue with the General Practitioner Committee (GPC) negotiating arm of the British Medical Association (BMA) regarding funding issues to the GP contract.

Most recent representations involved my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State contacting the chairs of both the BMA and GPC personally regarding his ministerial statement of 10 February 2010 on his recommendations to the Review Body on Doctors and Dentists' remuneration award review for 2010.

Health Services: Armed Forces

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-16WS, on medical care (veterans), what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of extending to all veterans the undertaking of an entitlement to receive from the NHS an equivalent standard of prosthetic limb to those provided by Defence Medical Services; and what standards apply to prosthetic limbs provided by *(a)* the NHS to members of the public and *(b)* Defence Medical Services to military personnel. [325065]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The current operating framework for the NHS requires commissioners to take account of military personnel, their families and veterans when commissioning services in their area. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders, including practice based commissioners, local government and the public to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of prosthetic services for former service personnel.

The provision of a prosthetic limb is not the only factor that influences an amputee's quality of life and acceptance of ability. Psychological, social, co-morbidity, age, and clinical service all contribute to an individual's quality of life and use of the prostheses. The provision of prosthetic care and services is undertaken by a multidisciplinary clinical and assessment team to ensure that the type and standard of a particular prostheses is clinically appropriate for an individual.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-British residents received NHS treatment in North West Cambridgeshire constituency in each of the last 10 years. [324688]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the count of finished admission episodes where the strategic health authority (SHA) of residence was recorded as "Foreign (including Isle of Man and Channel Islands)" or "Northern Ireland" and the primary care trust (PCT) of main provider was Cambridgeshire PCT in years 1999-2000 to 2005-06 and 2007-08 to 2008-09. Years 2006-07 and 1998-99 are unfortunately unavailable as the PCT of main provider field in HES has poor data quality in these years.

	Total admission episodes
2008-09	282
2007-08	349
2006-07	n/a
2005-06	330
2004-05	248
2003-04	214
2002-03	184
2001-02	208
2000-01	277
1999-2000	255
1998-99	n/a

Notes:
1. This is not a count of patients as some patients may have been admitted more than once within the year.
2. In 2006-07 there was a merger of East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT, Huntingdonshire PCT, Cambridge City PCT, South Cambridgeshire PCT and 36 per cent. of South Peterborough PCT to form Cambridgeshire PCT. Therefore years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are not directly comparable to previous years. Where there were no records of admissions where the SHA of residence was foreign or Northern Ireland at one of the PCTs of main provider, the PCT has not been included in the breakdown.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the cost of treating non-British residents on the NHS in North West Cambridgeshire constituency was recovered by charging the patient or the insurer in each of the last 10 years. [324757]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows income recovered from overseas patients under non-reciprocal agreements, 2003-04 to 2008-09.

Organisation	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£000 2008-09*
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust	29	0	0	0	108	51
Cambridge University Hospitals Foundation Trust	217	0	0	0	0	0
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	74	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huntingdonshire Primary Care Trust (PCT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridge City PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Cambridgeshire PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Peterborough PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	320	0	0	0	108	51

Notes:
1. For Cambridgeshire PCT and Peterborough PCT, the data prior to 2006-07 are the sum of the predecessor PCTs that were merged to form the new PCTs in October 2006.
2. The Department does not collect data from NHS foundation trusts. Where an NHS trust obtains foundation trust status part way through any year, the data provided is only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS trust.
3. North West Cambridgeshire constituency is also served by the following NHS foundation trusts—in these cases we have provided data up to the point that they achieved FT status:
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. This organisation achieved FT status in July 2004, therefore no data exists after the 2004-05 financial year.
The 2004-05 figure represents only the part of the year the organisation operated as a NHS trust.
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust. This organisation achieved FT status in June 2008, therefore the 2008-09 figure represents only the part of the year the organisation operated as a NHS trust.
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. This organisation achieved FT status in April 2004, therefore no data exist after the 2003-04 financial year.
4. In common with many other public and private sector organisations the Department only holds accounting data at organisation level for seven years, and therefore data are available only for the financial years 2002-03 to 2008-09.
5. Income from overseas patients under non-reciprocal agreements was not separately identified in the 2002-03 summarisation schedules and cannot be disaggregated from other income figures.
Source:
Audited summarisation schedules 2003-04 to 2008-09.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treating non-British residents in North West Cambridgeshire constituency in each of the last 10 years. [324758]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. Data would be held by local national health service organisations if collected.

Health Visitors

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors there were in each primary care trust area in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [325063]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the numbers requested.

NHS hospital and community health services: Health Visitors in England by strategic health authority area and by primary care trust as at 30 September each year

			Headcount
		2008	2009
England		11,190	10,859
North East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	—	646	609
County Durham PCT	5ND	9	4
Darlington PCT	5J9	170	176
Gateshead PCT	5KF	44	42
Hartlepool PCT	5D9	14	0
Middlesbrough PCT	5KM	0	0
Newcastle PCT	5D7	85	76
North Tyneside PCT	5D8	57	51
Northumberland Care Trust	TAC	59	46
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	5QR	55	48
South Tyneside PCT	5KG	47	47
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	5E1	37	0
Sunderland Teaching PCT	5KL	66	69
North West Strategic Health Authority area	—	1,838	1,794
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	5HG	103	110
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	5CC	57	48
Blackpool PCT	5HP	61	60
Bolton PCT	5HQ	76	71
Bury PCT	5JX	52	52
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	5NP	96	100
Central Lancashire PCT	5NG	101	96
Cumbria Teaching PCT	5NE	110	109
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	5NH	99	93
Halton and St Helens PCT	5NM	71	59
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	5NQ	78	67
Knowsley PCT	5J4	54	36
Liverpool PCT	5NL	103	132
Manchester PCT	5NT	125	124
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	5NF	89	86
Oldham PCT	5J5	51	54
Salford PCT	5F5	40	37
Sefton PCT	5NJ	56	61
Stockport PCT	5F7	81	70
Tameside and Glossop PCT	5LH	68	60
Trafford PCT	5NR	52	54
Warrington PCT	5J2	50	55
Western Cheshire PCT	5NN	64	58
Wirral PCT	5NK	83	86
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	—	1,256	1,214
Barnsley PCT	5JE	60	53
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	5NY	152	147
Bradford District Care Trust	TAD	0	0
Calderdale PCT	5J6	61	63
Doncaster PCT	5N5	92	78
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	5NW	68	66
Hull Teaching PCT	5NX	77	71
Kirklees PCT	5N2	80	98
Leeds PCT	5N1	158	155
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	TAN	44	39
North Lincolnshire PCT	5EF	37	38
North Yorkshire and York PCT	5NV	147	127
Rotherham PCT	5H8	61	50
Sheffield PCT	5N4	125	125
Wakefield District PCT	5N3	88	96
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	—	899	957
Bassetlaw PCT	5ET	20	17
Derby City PCT	5N7	63	48
Derbyshire County PCT	5N6	172	161
Leicester City PCT	5PC	75	71
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	5PA	103	93
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N9	140	138
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	5PD	122	248
Nottingham City PCT	5EM	91	85
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	5N8	110	93
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	—	1,235	1,186
Birmingham East and North PCT	5PG	93	97
Coventry Teaching PCT	5MD	48	47
Dudley PCT	5PE	75	73
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	5MX	75	71
Herefordshire PCT	5CN	30	24
North Staffordshire PCT	5PH	46	55
Sandwell PCT	5PF	72	56
Shropshire County PCT	5M2	53	45
Solihull Care Trust	TAM	59	56
South Birmingham PCT	5M1	70	72
South Staffordshire PCT	5PK	132	134
Stoke on Trent PCT	5PJ	87	80
Telford and Wrekin PCT	5MK	41	43
Walsall Teaching PCT	5M3	52	40
Warwickshire PCT	5PM	107	101
Wolverhampton City PCT	5MV	59	62
Worcestershire PCT	5PL	132	128
East of England Strategic Health Authority area	—	1,069	991
Bedfordshire PCT	5P2	83	80
Cambridgeshire PCT	5PP	59	78
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	5PJ	107	105
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	5PR	42	28
Luton PCT	5GC	43	41
Mid Essex PCT	5PX	56	51
Norfolk PCT	5PQ	132	128
North East Essex PCT	5PW	46	45
Peterborough PCT	5PN	50	43
South East Essex PCT	5P1	62	55
South West Essex PCT	5PY	94	68

NHS hospital and community health services: Health Visitors in England by strategic health authority area and by primary care trust as at 30 September each year

		2008	Headcount 2009
Suffolk PCT	5PT	117	106
West Essex PCT	5PV	53	47
West Hertfordshire PCT	5P4	112	105
London Strategic Health Authority area	—	1,577	1,513
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	24	14
Barnet PCT	5A9	31	39
Bexley Care Trust	TAK	59	50
Brent Teaching PCT	5K5	41	41
Bromley PCT	5A7	80	82
Camden PCT	5K7	32	27
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	5C3	50	47
Croydon PCT	5K9	70	63
Ealing PCT	5HX	64	57
Enfield PCT	5C1	46	44
Greenwich Teaching PCT	5A8	52	42
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5H1	69	65
Haringey Teaching PCT	5C9	7	2
Harrow PCT	5K6	45	36
Havering PCT	5A4	36	81
Hillingdon PCT	5AT	56	55
Hounslow PCT	5HY	37	36
Islington PCT	5K8	31	33
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5LA	30	38
Kingston PCT	5A5	26	32
Lambeth PCT	5LD	45	34
Lewisham PCT	5LF	82	93
Newham PCT	5C5	36	44
Redbridge PCT	5C8	42	40
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5M6	40	32
Southwark PCT	5LE	100	74
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	95	97
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	52	62
Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	50	0
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	57	55
Westminster PCT	5LC	56	55
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	—	769	764
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	5P7	70	58
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	5QA	148	160
Hastings and Rother PCT	5P8	40	35
Medway PCT	5L3	58	49
Surrey PCT	5P5	163	159
West Kent PCT	5P9	91	89
West Sussex PCT	5P6	119	133
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	—	784	758
Berkshire East PCT	5QG	78	71
Berkshire West PCT	5QF	87	81
Buckinghamshire PCT	5QD	103	107
Hampshire PCT	5QC	192	168
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	5QT	19	18
Milton Keynes PCT	5CQ	58	60
Oxfordshire PCT	5QE	157	134
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	5FE	48	47
Southampton City PCT	5LJ	42	72

NHS hospital and community health services: Health Visitors in England by strategic health authority area and by primary care trust as at 30 September each year

		2008	Headcount 2009
South West Strategic Health Authority area	—	1,117	1,073
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	5FL	43	41
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	5QN	78	74
Bristol PCT	5QJ	123	10
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	5QP	109	101
Devon PCT	5QQ	116	89
Dorset PCT	5QM	89	84
Gloucestershire PCT	5QH	134	131
North Somerset PCT	5MH	39	41
Plymouth Teaching PCT	5F1	70	67
Somerset PCT	5QL	101	122
South Gloucestershire PCT	5A3	52	51
Swindon PCT	5K3	35	31
Torbay Care Trust	TAL	26	31
Wiltshire PCT	5QK	96	93

Notes:
1. England and Strategic Health Authority area totals include a small number of staff employed by NHS trusts. Year on year organisation level health visitor figures may fluctuate due to the migration of staff and services between organisations.
2. Data Quality: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Home Care Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the Personal Care at Home Bill's compliance with the new burdens doctrine for local authorities. [325756]

Phil Hope: As with all policies and programmes, the Government are committed to assessing the costs to local authorities of the Personal Care at Home Bill. The Bill will be funded through a combination of additional grant and from local authority efficiency savings. It will not now be introduced until April 2011.

It is right to expect councils to play their part alongside central Government to help deliver this new commitment. We believe that councils have room to use efficiency savings because:

The costs of delivering local services are now much lower, with recent low levels of inflation and affordable pay settlements;

The Budget 2010 announced new measures to free-up local resources through reducing burdens and targets and reductions in ring-fencing; and

We have provided record investment in local government, with local authorities receiving £8.6 billion more over the current Spending Review period.

Hospitals: Manpower

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed in the NHS in each hospital in North West Cambridgeshire constituency (i) in 1997 and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available. [324595]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The number of doctors and nurses employed in NHS hospitals in Cambridgeshire in 1997 and 2009 are shown in the following table.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): doctors and nurses within specified organisations

(Number (Headcount))

	As at 30 September each year	
	1997	2009
Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust		
HCHS Doctors	614	1,263
Nurses	1,814	3,028
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust		
HCHS Doctors	152	169
Nurses	673	681
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust		
HCHS Doctors	285	416
Nurses	1,026	1,189

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental workforce census and the NHS Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census y challenge.

Hospitals: Mortality Rates

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will request the Care Quality Commission to investigate the reasons for the hospital standardised mortality ratio in 2007-08 at hospitals in *(a)* Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust, *(b)* Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, *(c)* Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, *(d)* Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, *(e)* Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust, *(f)* George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust, *(g)* Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, *(h)* Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust, *(i)* Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, *(j)* James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, *(k)* Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust, *(l)* Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, *(m)* Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, *(n)* Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, *(o)* North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust, *(p)* Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, *(q)* Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, *(r)* Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, *(s)* Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust, *(t)* Stockport NHS Foundation Trust, *(u)* Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, *(v)* United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust, *(w)* University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, *(x)* University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust and *(y)* Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust. [325066]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: From 1 April, national health service providers of regulated activities are required by law to be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and assessed against a set of 16 safety and quality requirements. CQC has, therefore, recently scrutinised the registration applications of all NHS trusts in the country.

In December 2009, CQC conducted a regional review of all trusts identified as having high hospital standardised mortality ratios and considered this information as part of the registration process for every trust, alongside other data.

Where CQC does not have sufficient evidence of compliance with the requirements, it can impose conditions on the trust's registration, to force it to improve essential levels of quality and safety within timescales specified by CQC.

Once trusts are registered, CQC continues to look at their mortality rates and will continuously monitor compliance with the essential safety and quality requirements, as part of the new system of regulation.

Hospitals: Parking

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will issue guidance to NHS hospital trusts on charging their staff to park in trust car parks; and if he will make a statement. [325235]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has issued guidance to the national health service on the operation of controlled car parking schemes 'Income Generation: Car Parking Charges—Best Practice for Implementation', a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

This guidance provides general advice on factors that should be considered when establishing a policy for staff car parking, but recognises that specific decisions need to be taken at a local level.

Hospitals: Security

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the annual cost of security staff in NHS hospitals in Shropshire has been in each year since 1997; [325408]

(2) what percentage of security cameras at Shropshire NHS hospitals were found to be faulty in each year since 1997. [325409]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. However, it should be available direct from Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust, Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust, Shropshire County Primary Care Trust, and South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

Influenza

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written ministerial statements of 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 40WS, on pandemic flu and 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 11-12WS, on departmental expenditure limits and administration cost limits (2009-10), for what reasons there was a transfer *(a)* of £200 million from his Department's capital budget to its revenue budget to meet existing commitments on pandemic flu and *(b)* of £100 million from his Department's revenue budget to its capital budget to meet existing commitments on pandemic flu. [325398]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The £200 million transfer from the Department's capital budget to its revenue budget was based on the information available on pandemic flu commitments at the time of the Spring Parliamentary Estimate exercise.

Since the Spring Parliamentary exercise, the Department has finalised the budgeting and accounting treatment of pandemic flu commitments and consequently undertook the transfer of £100 million from the revenue budget to the capital budget.

These transfers do not change the overall funding is available to the Department.

Injuries: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* broken bones, *(b)* lacerations, *(c)* fractures and *(d)* sprains that were diagnosed in respect of patients in each age group in hospitals in (i) Easingwold and (ii) North Yorkshire during the Christmas and new year period of 2009-10. [325282]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Hospital episode statistics for accident and emergency attendances, during the month of December 2009, for dislocation, fracture, joint injury, amputation, laceration and sprain as well as ligament injury are due to be published on 9 April 2010. Statistics for January 2010 are due to be published on 11 May 2010.

Mental Health Services: Advocacy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2010, *Official Report,* columns 125-6W, on mental health services: advocacy, how frequently information on the availability and accessibility of independent mental health advocates in hospitals which detain patients under the Mental Health Act 1983 will be collected and published; and in which quarter he expects the annual report of the Care Quality Commission to be laid before Parliament. [325172]

Phil Hope: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the new integrated regulator for health and adult social care from 1 April 2009. They have told us that:

the implementation of independent mental health advocacy is of particular interest to them;

the availability and accessibility of advocacy will be a standard question asked on all of their regular visits to hospitals from 1 April 2010;

the results will be reflected in annual statements on every hospital (in the independent sector) or trust (in the national health service) that they visit and that these statements will be published on the CQC website towards the end of each calendar year; and

a CQC report containing initial findings on the implementation of independent mental health advocacy in 2009-10 is planned for publication in October 2010.

NHS

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which *(a)* primary care trust area and *(b)* parliamentary constituency each NHS acute trust is located. [325757]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally. NHS trusts provide a range of services from a number of locations.

Information on constituencies served by primary care trusts is available on the Department's website at:

www.info.doh.gov.uk/nhsfactsheets.nsf

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on each programme funded from its centrally-managed budget in each year since 1997-98; and how much his Department plans to spend on each programme it plans to fund from its centrally-managed budget in 2010-11; and how much such planned expenditure on each planned programme is *(a)* committed and *(b)* uncommitted. [324515]

Phil Hope: It would be at disproportionate cost for the Department to list expenditure from each individual central budget programme for the years in question due to the very large number of budgets and several departmental reorganisations.

2010-11 central budget programme plans have not yet been finalised. The Department does not report their central budgets on a committed/not-committed basis.

While the detailed (by programme) expenditure is not readily available, we do routinely publish planned expenditure for centrally managed budgets in the annual departmental report publication. The following table provides departmental report references for this expenditure.

Table 1: Departmental report table references (figure numbers) for published figures on three areas of centrally managed budgets[1]

	Centrally funded initiatives and services and special allocation (CFISSA)	*Central health and miscellaneous services (CHMS)*	*Personal social services (PSS) provision for adults*
1996 (1997-99)	Annex A	Annex A	Annex A
1999	4.8	Annex B—Fig B1	5.1
2000	11.6	11.14	11.15
2001	6.6	6.13	6.14
2003	6.6	6.12	6.13
2004	6.6	6.12	6.13
2005	6.9	6.13	6.14
2006	6.9	6.16	6.17
2007	9.21	9.22	9.28
2008	9.18	9.19	9.28
2009	5.1	5.1	5.1

[1] Three areas include:
Centrally Funded Initiatives and Services and Special Allocation(CFISSA);
Central Health and Miscellaneous Services (CHMS); and
Personal Social Services (PSS) provision for adults (PSS)

Aggregated expenditure for the centrally managed budgets from 1997-98 to 2008-09 is contained in the operating cost statement in each year of the Department's Resource Accounts publication. However, these data do not show the expenditure by detailed programme. We are planning on making the equivalent 2009-10 expenditure data available in July 2010.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the use of models of risk prediction for the NHS Health Check. [324874]

Ann Keen: The NHS Health Check programme is a universal and systematic programme for everyone between the ages of 40 and 74 that will assess individuals' risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes and will support people to reduce or manage that risk through individually tailored advice. The programme was developed on the basis of advice from the National Screening Committee, is based on guidance produced by the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and is both cost effective and clinically effective.

The risk assessment stage of the NHS Health Check uses a risk engine to calculate a person's 10-year risk of cardiovascular disease. Evidence on cardiovascular risk estimation has developed considerably, with a number of risk engines available, including Framingham and QRISK. These have been calibrated to reflect risk factors within specific populations, such as ethnicity, and a number of scientific reviews have been published on their validity. The Department takes its advice from NICE on matters such as which risk engines are most appropriate for the national health service to use. NICE has recently revised its guidance to allow the NHS to decide locally which risk engine best predicts risk for their population mix.

Of equal importance however is that people are given individually tailored advice and the necessary follow up which is suitable for their particular circumstances to help them manage or reduce their risk. The advice, interventions and follow-up that are offered will involve professional judgment and will help ensure that everyone's individual needs are met.

Nurses: Schools

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 806W, on nurses: schools, to how many school clusters in England a school nurse is allocated. [325733]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local authorities, strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, and to commission services accordingly.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has undertaken costings of the policies of the *(a)* Conservative party and *(b)* Liberal Democrat party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months. [324245]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary (Sarah McCarthy-Fry) on 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1044W.

Prosthetics: Health Services

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statistics his Department collects on *(a)* demographic, *(b)* diagnosis and *(c)* treatment information held at prosthetics service centres in England; and whether there are plans to replace the National Amputee Statistical Database. [325064]

Phil Hope: Between 1997 and 2007 the National Amputee Statistical Database collected data from a number of providers using its minimum dataset which contained fields such as:

Patient Number;
Date of Birth;
Commissioning Code;
Centre Code;
Gender;
Category of patient;
Ethnic Origin;
Date of Referral following Amputation;
Date of Amputation;
Level of Amputation; and
Cause of Amputation (Aetiology).

There are no plans at present to replace the database.

Health Episodes Statistics which collates data on the care provided by national health service hospitals and for NHS hospital patients treated elsewhere does not include any data on application of prosthesis as this rarely occurs in a hospital setting.

Health Episodes Statistics does measure in-patient amputations using the OPCS classification of Interventions and Procedures. When combined with other data from the Admitted Patient Care Commissioning Data Set (age, sex, postcode, ethnicity, diagnosis), Health Episodes Statistics can be used to retrieve a great deal of the amputation data previously provided by National Amputee Statistical Database.

Comprehensive central data are not collected about the numbers of people with prostheses or the number of prostheses that are supplied.

Radiotherapy

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's press release of 18 August 2009 on proton therapy services, what progress his Department is making in identifying possible providers of proton therapy treatment for NHS patients in England; what estimate he has made of the maximum annual number of patients who could be treated at a proton therapy treatment centre; and if he will make a statement. [325722]

Ann Keen: We are currently evaluating bids to identify a shortlist of potential providers of proton beam therapy (PBT) services in England. The project team will then work with those trusts to develop a full business case by the end of 2010. We estimate that 1,500 patients could benefit from PBT per annum.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1400-01W, on medical treatments abroad, in which countries the patients for whom proton therapy treatment was commissioned in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 were treated. [325723]

Ann Keen: In 2008-09 patients were treated in France and Switzerland.

In 2009-10 patients were treated in France, Switzerland and the United States of America.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1400-01W, on medical treatments abroad, which individuals sit on the proton reference panel. [325724]

Ann Keen: The following sit on the panel. Not all members are involved in clinical decisions on the referral of patients abroad for treatment.

Dr. Adrian Crellin, Consultant Clinical Oncologist, St. James's Institute of Oncology. Chairman-NCG National Reference Panel.

Professor Roger Taylor, Clinical Director Cancer Services, ABM University Health Board, Professor of Clinical Oncology, Swansea Clinical School.

Donna Routsis, Lead Research Radiographer, Addenbrooke's NHS Trust.

Dr. Neil Burnet, Consultant Oncologist, Addenbrooke's NHS Trust.

Dr. Nicola Thorp, Consultant Paediatric Oncologist, Clatterbridge Cancer Centre.

Professor Bleddyn Jones, Director, Gray Institute for Radiation Oncology and Biology University of Oxford.

Dr. Susan Short, Consultant and Senior Lecturer in Clinical Oncology, University College Hospital London.

Dr. Daniel Ford, Consultant Clinical Oncologist, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.

Dr. Michelle Kwok-Williams, Consultant Clinical Oncologist, St. James's Institute of Oncology.

Dr. Edmund Jessop, Medical Advisor, National Commissioning Group.

Sarah Watson, Senior Commissioning Manager National Commissioning Group.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1400-01W, on medical treatments abroad, what the average cost of an individual course of proton therapy treatment commissioned from abroad was in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and what the total cost of such treatment was in each such year. [325725]

Ann Keen: The average cost of an individual course of proton therapy treatment commissioned from abroad in 2008-09 was £28,000. This figure relates to the treatment of six patients at a total cost of £168,000.

The average cost of an individual course of proton therapy treatment commissioned from abroad in 2009-10 was £62,000. This figure relates to the treatment of 26 patients at a total cost of £1,600,000. These figures are taken from draft accounts which have yet to be finalised.

The increase in average cost in 2009-10 over 2008-09 relates to patients being treated in the United States of America for the first time in 2009-10.

Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what official visits *(a)* he and *(b)* his predecessors have made to Shropshire in the last five years. [325412]

Phil Hope: The Department holds records of visits dating back three years. Since 2007, the Secretary of State for Health has not visited Shropshire.

Social Services: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people eligible for adult social care in Cambridgeshire; and what methodology was used to calculate the estimate of the cost of providing such care for a person in Cambridgeshire of £103 a week. [323666]

Phil Hope: Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) assess peoples' eligibility for social care services according to statutory guidance, issued under section 7(1) of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, entitled "Fair Access to Care Services—guidance on eligibility criteria for adult social care", which was issued in 2003. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

"Fair Access to Care Services" is shortly to be replaced by new statutory guidance, "Prioritising need in the context of Putting People First: A whole system approach to eligibility for social care", which was published on 25 February 2010 and will take effect from 1 April 2010. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Data on the number of adults aged 18 and over receiving social care services funded by CASSRs are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care as part of the Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care (RAP) return.

The table shows the number of service users aged 18 and over receiving social care services in Cambridgeshire in 2008-09 by service category.

Number of service users receiving social care services in Cambridgeshire, 2008-09[1] Cambridgeshire

Type of service	*Number of clients (rounded numbers)*
Residential care	2,075
Nursing care	930
Community based Services[3, 4]	12,775
Of which:	
Day Care	2,465
Direct Payments	645
Equipment and adaptations	4,915
Home Care	6,165
Meals	260
Other	555
Professional support	2,020
Short term residential, not respite	30
Total number of clients receiving services[2]	15,130

[1] Data for 2008-09 are provisional, final data are expected to be published on 28 April 2010.
[2] The 'Total number of clients receiving services' is the number of clients receiving one or more services at some point during the year, excluding double counting.
[3] This is the total number of clients receiving community based services during the year, excluding double counting.
[4] A client may have received more than one type of community based service during the year and thus there may be some double counting across service categories.
Source:
RAP form P1 and P2f

There has been no estimate made that providing adult social care in Cambridgeshire would cost £103 a week. The impact assessment which accompanies the Personal Care at Home Bill sets out the methodology used to estimate the additional costs of providing free personal care at home nationally to those in the highest

need. The figure was arrived at using information contained in annex B of the impact assessment—which has already been placed in the Library—as follows:

1. Average number of hours of personal care per week provided for those in highest need = 6.54.

2. Estimated cost of that care per hour, based on 2011-12 prices = £15.75

3. 6.54 x £15.75 = £103 per week.

Social Services: Finance

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people in each local authority area *(a)* have been assessed for a personal social care budget, *(b)* are in receipt of payment from a personal social care budget, *(c)* have declined to use a personal social care budget and *(d)* are awaiting assessment for a personal social care budget. [325052]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects data on the number of clients (aged 18 and over) planned to receive services commissioned or provided by councils with adult social service responsibilities (CASSRs) via a personal budget as at 31 March 2009.

Information on the numbers of people assessed for, awaiting assessment for, or declining a personal (social care) budget is not collected centrally.

The table provides provisional information on the number of clients planned to receive services provided or commissioned by CASSRs via a personal budget as at 31 March 2009. Final data for 2008-09 are expected to be published on 28 April 2010.

The number of clients (aged 18 and over) planned to receive services via a personal budget as at 31 March 2009[1] by CASSR—As at 31 March 2009

	Rounded Clients (aged 18 and over) receiving personal budgets[2]
Barking and Dagenham	35
Barnet	25
Barnsley	475
Bath And Somerset Unitary Authority (UA)	145
Bedfordshire	0
Bexley	0
Birmingham	[3]
Blackburn with Darwen UA	0
Blackpool UA	0
Bolton	[3]
Bournemouth UA	[4]
Bracknell Forest UA	0
Bradford	[3]
Brent	165
Brighton and Hove UA	30
Bristol UA	[3]
Bromley	0
Buckinghamshire	0
Bury	0
Calderdale	[3]
Cambridgeshire	55
Camden	0
Cheshire	20
City of London	0
Cornwall	0
Coventry	300
Croydon	[4]

The number of clients (aged 18 and over) planned to receive services via a personal budget as at 31 March 2009[1] by CASSR—As at 31 March 2009

	Rounded Clients (aged 18 and over) receiving personal budgets[2]
Cumbria	[3]
Darlington UA	0
Derby UA	0
Derbyshire	[3]
Devon	935
Doncaster	140
Dorset	105
Dudley	0
Durham	20
Ealing	[3]
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	0
East Sussex	0
Enfield	0
Essex	485
Gateshead	0
Gloucestershire	0
Greenwich	[3]
Hackney	5
Halton UA	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	0
Hampshire	1,290
Haringey	0
Harrow	135
Hartlepool UA	0
Havering	0
Herefordshire UA	65
Hertfordshire	2,150
Hillingdon	0
Hounslow	0
Isle of Wight UA	15
Isles of Scilly	0
Islington	0
Kensington and Chelsea	55
Kent	0
Kingston Upon Hull UA	0
Kingston Upon Thames	25
Kirklees	370
Knowsley	5
Lambeth	0
Lancashire	90
Leeds	[3]
Leicester UA	120
Leicestershire	0
Lewisham	0
Lincolnshire	205
Liverpool	[3]
Luton UA	[3]
Manchester	[3]
Medway Towns UA	0
Merton	0
Middlesbrough UA	20
Milton Keynes UA	0
Newcastle Upon Tyne	[3]
Newham	150
Norfolk	265
North East Lincolnshire UA	0
North Lincolnshire UA	0
North Somerset UA	5
North Tyneside	[4]
North Yorkshire	0
Northamptonshire	75
Northumberland	[4]

The number of clients (aged 18 and over) planned to receive services via a personal budget as at 31 March 2009[1] by CASSR—As at 31 March 2009

	Rounded Clients (aged 18 and over) receiving personal budgets[2]
Nottingham UA	0
Nottinghamshire	265
Oldham	2,080
Oxfordshire	10
Peterborough UA	10
Plymouth UA	0
Poole UA	0
Portsmouth UA	10
Reading UA	[3]—
Redbridge	310
Redcar and Cleveland UA	[3]—
Richmond Upon Thames	550
Rochdale	[3]—
Rotherham	0
Rutland UA	580
Salford	0
Sandwell	10
Sefton	0
Sheffield	25
Shropshire	0
Slough UA	0
Solihull	0
Somerset	20
South Gloucestershire UA	0
South Tyneside	[3]—
Southampton UA	5
Southend-on-Sea UA	[4]—
Southwark	0
St. Helens	420
Staffordshire	30
Stockport	0
Stockton-On-Tees UA	[3]—
Stoke-On-Trent UA	[4]—
Suffolk	235
Sunderland	[3]—
Surrey	[3]—
Sutton	0
Swindon UA	0
Tameside	0
Telford and The Wrekin UA	0
Thurrock UA	0
Torbay UA	[4]—
Tower Hamlets	0
Trafford	0
Wakefield	0
Walsall	0
Waltham Forest	0
Wandsworth	0
Warrington UA	0
Warwickshire	80
West Berkshire UA	30
West Sussex	910
Westminster	40
Wigan	35
Wiltshire	0
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	0
Wirral	[3]—
Wokingham UA	30
Wolverhampton	0
Worcestershire	10

The number of clients (aged 18 and over) planned to receive services via a personal budget as at 31 March 2009[1] by CASSR—As at 31 March 2009

	Rounded Clients (aged 18 and over) receiving personal budgets[2]
York UA	75

[1] Data for 2008-09 are provisional, final data are expected to be published on 28 April 2010.
[2] Two personal budgets are currently being rolled out and councils are at varying stages of roll out, therefore there is a large variation in figures at CASSR level.
[3] Missing data items.
[4] Data less than six has been suppressed.

Figures within the table include clients in receipt of direct payments as part of a personal budget, but do not include carers in receipt of direct payments or with a personal budget.

An England total for the figures is not provided as data was not provided by all CASSRs. These data are provisional, and final data, including an England total with calculated estimations for those councils that have not provided data, will be published on 28 April 2010.

Vaccination

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish guidance on the vaccination of women and girls who do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the national programme; and what estimate he has made of the number of women and girls to whom that guidance will apply. [325388]

Gillian Merron: The aim of the national human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme is the prevention of cervical cancer. HPV is passed through sexual contact which means that the vaccine is most effective if given before the start of sexual activity. The HPV vaccination programme is based on advice from the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation which considered a number of factors, including cost-effectiveness. Girls aged 12 to 13 years in school year 8 are routinely offered the vaccine and girls up to the age of 18 are being offered the vaccine in a time-limited catch up programme. General practitioners can only prescribe the HPV vaccine outside the specified cohorts in exceptional clinical circumstances.

The Immunisation website provides information about cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine to girls that are 18 or over and therefore too old to be part of the national vaccination programme. The website also urges them to attend cervical screening when they are invited from the age of 25.

The website address is:

www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Vaccines/HPV/Having_the_vaccination/Im_over_18_and_would_like_to_have_the_HPV_vaccination._Can_I_get_it_done_by_my_GP

Viral Diseases

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who are infected with the xenotropic murine leukaemia virus-related virus. [325313]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the number of people infected with xenotropic murine leukaemia virus-related virus.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

CAFCASS

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the time taken by staff of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service to prepare for an Ofsted inspection. [307487]

Dawn Primarolo: The resources used in preparation for, and facilitation of, an Ofsted inspection were estimated as being equivalent to some 4,000 hours of staff time, comprising a combination of front-line, managerial and support staff. This estimate was made during 2009 as part of the work on an issues analysis carried out by PA Consulting for DCSF and relates to a single CAFCASS service area.

Children In Care: Missing Persons

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children went missing from care in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [320236]

Dawn Primarolo: The information has been placed in the Libraries.

Children: Abuse

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to ensure that recent reforms to child protection systems are *(a)* implemented and *(b)* resourced in full in Nottinghamshire. [322871]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's children and learners teams in regional Government offices support and challenge local areas to improve all outcomes for children including child protection and wider safeguarding performance. Since the publication in 2009 of Lord Laming's report "The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report" we have reviewed the role of those teams in relation to safeguarding and have also recruited a new cadre of specialist safeguarding advisers. These will be in place from April 2010.

Expenditure on children's social care, which includes child protection, has increased nationwide from £2.22 billion in 1997-98 to £5.73 billion in 2008-09 in cash. This is a real terms increase of over 90 per cent., equating to an average real terms increase of 6.1 per cent. per annum. Nottinghamshire has benefited from this extra investment.

The Secretary of State announced on 17 March the publication of "The Government's Response to Lord Laming: One Year On" an update on progress made thus far on implementing the Government's Action Plan in response to Lord Laming's report. It includes a commitment of an investment of more than £200 million in 2010-11 to support the social work reform programme as well as a new Local Social Work Improvement Fund of £23 million in 2010-11.

Children: Human Trafficking

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to increase provision of accommodation for child victims of trafficking. [320235]

Dawn Primarolo: Effective matching of a child to the right carer to meet their needs is a key factor in achieving stable and secure placements for all looked after children, including unaccompanied children from abroad who may have been trafficked. Local authorities will be responsible for identifying the most suitable placement for the children they look after and each authority will have arrangements in place to secure a sufficient number of good quality placements.

The Department supports a number of initiatives designed to increase the supply of good quality placements for children in care, including children who may be victims of trafficking. For example, we are currently revising the National Minimum Standards for children's homes and fostering services to improve the focus on outcomes for children, so that all are given personalised support in line with their needs and wishes. We are also working with the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) to develop and implement foster care training, support and development standards and improve professional devolvement for children's homes staff.

These initiatives are designed to increase the number of suitably skilled foster carers and residential care staff at local level with the right skills to support all looked after children, including any child who may be a victim of trafficking.

Children: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding from the Home Access Programme has been allocated; how many families have received assistance from the scheme; and what the maximum limit is on expenditure by each family on *(a)* a laptop and *(b)* connectivity. [313473]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 26 January 2010]:* We expect the total expenditure on the Home Access programme to be in the region of £300 million, with around £240 million of this released in the current spending period (to March 2011) for the pilot and specialist activities and the initial stage (key stages 2 and 3) of the national programme. 270,000 households are due to benefit from the current phase of funding, with over 30,000 already benefitting to date. Customers will be able to get a full package grant worth up to £528, or up to £400 for a device and support only or up to £180 for connectivity only.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to minimise the risks to children arising from their use of the internet. [322814]

Dawn Primarolo: Prof. Tanya Byron's report, "Safer Children in a Digital World" was published in March 2008 and its recommendations on child internet safety were accepted in full by the Government. Subsequently, the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) was launched in September 2008. Chaired by DCSF and Home Office ministers, the council unites over 160 organisations from across industry, the third sector, law enforcement and the devolved administrations to deliver the recommendations of the report.

UKCCIS published its first strategy on 9 December 2009, the first of its kind in the world, which laid out the steps that will be taken to help keep children safe online. These include: a £2 million public awareness campaign, launched in February this year, to help parents keep their children safe online; a range of guidance for internet companies, as a further step towards effective self regulation for the industry; and the planned introduction of e-safety to the National Curriculum for Primary Schools in England from September 2010. The UKCCIS strategy can be found at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/UKCCIS/

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families asked Prof. Tanya Byron to report on the progress made on improving children's digital safety following her original review in 2008. Prof. Byron's findings are due to reported shortly.

Children: Social Services

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the standard of services for vulnerable children in Calderdale; and what steps his Department plans to take to ensure the protection of children. [320121]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 3 March 2010]:* Ofsted published a report of an inspection of safeguarding and looked after children's services on 26 February which judged Calderdale metropolitan borough council's safeguarding services to be "inadequate". After meeting with representatives of the council I have decided that the council should be issued with an improvement notice; that an external chair should be appointed to the Improvement Board established by the council; and, to offer some additional support to ensure that these services improve quickly and sustainably.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions each Government Office of the Regions agreed to extend a deadline for the publication of a serious case review in the most recent year for which figures are available. [323263]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* Government offices do not have a role in granting extensions for the publication of SCRs. However, paragraph 8.15 of the statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2006) (as amended), which has now been superseded, said that

"there should be a discussion with the Government Office for the region to agree a timescale for completion of SCRs"

The revised "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2010) is clear that, where it emerges that a SCR cannot be completed within the six-month time scale, the LSCB is responsible for revising its timetable and immediately consulting with the relevant Government office. Where a LSCB decides an extension is necessary, it should provide the Government office with a revised project plan and an update on progress, which includes action already taken and an explanation for the extension. The role of the Government office includes providing advice, support and challenge to LSCBs.

The following table gives details of SCRs that were in progress at the time where one or more extensions were granted between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009. The SCRs in the table were not necessarily commissioned within the same period.

Number of serious case reviews (SCRs) for which one or more deadline extensions were granted between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009

Region	*Number*
East	19
East Midlands	6
London	14
North East	9
North West	36
South East	23
South West	12
West Midlands	14
Yorkshire and Humber	35

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average number of pages was in a *(a)* report on and *(b)* summary of a serious case review in the most recent period for which figures are available. [323490]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The figures requested are not recorded centrally.

The statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2010) sets out the requirements for SCR overview reports and executive summaries. Their length will vary according to the different features and levels of complexity of individual cases. "Working Together" does, however, include a template for overview reports and for executive summaries. The latter was added to the guidance in March 2010 to help ensure that each executive summary provides a full, thorough account of the SCR and includes the actions to be taken.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many smoking shelters have been built for his Department's staff in the last five years; and at what cost. [324363]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children Schools and Families have erected two smoking shelters in the last five years at a cost of £7,146.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department provides subsidised gym facilities for its staff. [324567]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does operate a subsidised gym facility at its Sanctuary Buildings headquarters. The subsidy to the managing contractor amounts to £62,500 per annum which is offset by the annual aggregate of membership charges which is £57,516. So far the total cost to the Department from the opening of the gym to the present time is £20,609.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324982]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has three voltage optimisers in its London HQ building which cover all incoming supplies.

Departmental Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what account his Department's food procurement policy takes of animal welfare. [325534]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The internal food catering contract is predicated on the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PFSPI) that supports the Government's "Strategy for Sustainable Farming in Food—Facing the Future". In addition, the supplier is encouraged to meet Food Assurance Standards through accredited bodies such as Red Tractor, Marine Stewardship Council and the RSPCA Freedom Food Schemes.

Departmental Higher Civil Servants

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many grade 2 civil servants are employed in his Department. [324955]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* Grade 2 as a description of staff level is no longer in general use. Senior civil servants in similar sized roles are now referred to as being in Pay Band 3 and usually have the job title of Director General. The Department has four full time equivalents at this level.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* communications and *(b)* press officers were in post in his Department on the latest date for which information is available. [320793]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department employs 26 press officers.

The Department's human resources systems holds information on individuals by their generalist civil service grade and therefore it is not possible to identify everybody engaged in communications work in the department, and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department and its predecessor have commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design; [321997]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1293W, on departmental internet, what the cost was of the website redesign. [321936]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's main website homepage

www.dcsf.gov.uk

and standard web page template have undergone four redesigns since 2005, as a result of changes to the Department's name and brand. The dates and costs of the redesigns, excluding VAT, are outlined in the following table.

	Cost (£)
April 2007	6,300
July 2007	2,370
September 2008	0
June 2009	7,390

The cost of the September 2008 redesign was met from internal resource. The Department's intranet has had one redesign since 2005, and the total cost was £116,525.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department, its predecessor and its agencies spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what those items were. [324719]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It is not possible to provide a comprehensive answer without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose of each such event was. [324665]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information cannot be supplied without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what public information helplines his Department runs; and what contracts have been awarded by his Department for the running of them. [323510]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department holds records centrally of six policy-specific helplines which it sponsors. These and the associated costs are outlined in the following table. The Department also jointly runs the Frank helpline but does not fund it.

A full survey of helplines and contracts would be possible only at disproportionate cost.

Helpline	*Cost (£)*
School Performance Tables contact centre	17,124.00
Sexwise	800,414.00
Childcare pilot services helpline	550,575.00
Childcare Helpline	123,224.00
Sure Start helpline	65,000.00
Extended Services helpline	9,000.00

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* average time taken to answer a call, *(b)* average waiting time for members of the public during a call, *(c)* percentage of calls dropped or not answered and *(d)* average length of calls was in call centres run by the Child Support Agency and its successor body in the latest period for which figures are available. [323963]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 6 April 2010:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what the (a) average time to answer a call, (b) average waiting time for members of the public during a call, (c) percentage of calls dropped or not answered and (d) average length of calls was in call centres run by the Child Support Agency and its successor body in the latest period for which figures are available. [323963]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (the Commission) took over responsibility for the Child Support Agency (CSA) on 1 November 2008.

In the period April 2009 to December 2009, (a) the average time to answer telephone calls was 7 seconds, (b) The average waiting time a client is kept on hold during a call was 9 seconds, (c) 0.25 per cent of calls were not answered from the queue of waiting callers. In addition, 6 per cent did not reach the queue as they were terminated by the client during the automated touchtone routing to the most appropriate queue, (d) The average handling time (from the moment a telephone calf is answered to the end of the call) was 5 minutes and 2 seconds.

As well as the CSA the Commission provides an information and support service to separated families known as Child Maintenance Options. If you would like details of call handling by this service please let me know.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 734W, on departmental temporary employment, what the total amount spent on employing temporary staff was in each of the last three years. [324330]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. The Department has used three agencies for the provision of its temporary staff (admin and clerical)—Adecco, Reed Employment and Hays Office Support. The contract with Adecco expired on 31 August 2007, when new contracts were established with Reed and Hays.

Total spend with the agencies:

2007/08—£1.7 million

2008/09—£3.3 million

April 2009 to December 2010—£2.0 million

For a small number of specialist temporary staff and interim managers the Department has used other agencies but information on this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Electronic Warfare

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects on the critical infrastructure of his Department of an electromagnetic pulse strike caused *(a)* deliberately and *(b)* through solar activity. [321756]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families is able to draw on the Government's Cyber Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, published alongside and reflected in the National Security Strategy update of June 2009, and on the advice of the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) and CESG as part of its Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity planning.

It would not be in the interests of national security to provide information about specific vulnerabilities, assessments or protective measures relating to electromagnetic pulse attack.

Families: Government Assistance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many recipients of Family Unit Current Grants there are expected to be in each category in 2010-11. [315726]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 5 February 2010]:* We do not recognise the grant as described.

Free School Meals

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many white boys eligible for free school meals finished compulsory schooling in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2008. [321259]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* The available information is shown in the table. This is based on pupils who were aged 15 as at 31 August prior to the academic year reported and who turned 16 in the academic year reported i.e. those in the final year of compulsory schooling.

State funded secondary[1, 2] and special schools[3]: Number and proportion of white British boys aged 15 known to be eligible for free school meals[4, 5, 6]. As at January 2003 and 2008—England

		White British boys aged 15	
	All pupils[4, 5]	*Number known to be eligible for free school meals[4, 5, 6]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals[7]*
2003	232,540	26,680	11.5

State funded secondary[1, 2] and special schools[3]: Number and proportion of white British boys aged 15 known to be eligible for free school meals[4, 5, 6]. As at January 2003 and 2008—England

		White British boys aged 15	
	All pupils[4, 5]	*Number known to be eligible for free school meals[4, 5, 6]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals[7]*
2008	247,720	25,100	10.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Includes pupils who are sole and dual main registrations.
[5] Boys aged 15 as at 31 August the previous year.
[6] Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons eg through preference or through non-attendance on the day. Pupils are counted as eligible only if they meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.
[7] The number of white British boys aged 15 known to be eligible for free school meals expressed as a percentage of the total number of white British boys aged 15.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Freud Communications

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1068W, on Freud Communications: public relations, for what reasons the Year of Music was not undertaken in-house by departmental staff; and on what dates Ministers in his Department have met Matthew Freud in the last 12 months. [324404]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: "Tune In—Year of Music" was conceived as a branded campaign aimed at making a significant and high-profile communications impact and intended to involve well-known music professionals, to interest and engage young people in music.

The challenge to unite the music sector under a common brand, with the aim of maximising the reach and impact of existing and future music opportunities for young people, as well as developing and implementing the Tune In programme of activity, and securing effective media coverage at national and local level, required a specialist integrated communications agency, as outlined in the campaign brief. Freud Communications were successful in a competitive pitch process run by the Department.

Neither Ministers nor officials in the Department have met with Matthew Freud in the last 12 months.

GCE A-level

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals achieved three A grades at A-level in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [312063]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 19 January 2010]:* Pupil level data relating to free school meal eligibility were not collected in 1997.

In 2008, 160 (3.5 per cent.) pupils eligible for free school meals achieved three or more A grades at A-level. The percentage is of all pupils eligible for free schools meals entered for at least one GCE/Applied GCE A level/Double Award in 2008.

This compares with 14,431 (10.5 per cent.) pupils not eligible for free school meals achieved three or more A grades at A-level. The percentage is of all pupils not eligible for free schools meals entered for at least one GCE/Applied GCE A level/Double Award in 2008.

The figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2007) in maintained schools only who were eligible for free school meals when they were academic age 16. The figures do not include the achievement of students in further education sector colleges previously eligible for free school meals.

GCE A-Level: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals achieved *(a)* one or more A to G grades, *(b)* three or more A to C grades and *(c)* three or more A grades at A-level in (i) 1980 and (ii) the most recent year for which records are available. [310370]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* Pupil level data relating to free school meal eligibility were not collected as far back as 1980, therefore we have provided 2003.

Figures for 2003 are shown in the following table.

	Pupils eligible for FSM achieving	
	Number	*Percentage*
(a) One or more A to E grades	4,610	93.4
(b) Three or more A to C grades	845	17.1
(c) Three or more A grades	94	1.9

Figures for 2008 are shown in the following table.

	Pupils eligible for FSM achieving	
	Number	*Percentage*
(a) One or more A to E grades	4,516	97.5
(b) Three or more A to C grades	1,370	29.6
(c) Three or more A grades	160	3.5

Percentages indicated are of all students eligible for free school meals who were entered for at least one GCE/Applied GCE A level/Double Award in 2008.

The figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2007) in maintained schools only who were eligible for free school meals when they were academic age 16. The figures do not include the achievement of students in further education sector colleges previously eligible for free school meals.

GCE A-Levels: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many white *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls eligible for free school meals achieved three A grades at A-level in (i) 1980 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [310103]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* Pupil level data on ethnicity and eligibility for free school meals were not collected as far back as 1980.

In 2008, 38 (4.2 per cent.) white British boys and 29 (2.6 per cent.) white British girls eligible for free school meals achieved three or more A grades at A-level. Percentages indicated are of white British students eligible for free school meals of the appropriate gender who were entered for at least one GCE/Applied GCE A level/Double Award in 2008.

The figures relate to 16-18 year olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2007) in maintained schools only who were eligible for free school meals when they were academic age 16. The figures do not include the achievement of students in further education sector colleges previously eligible for free school meals.

GCSE

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of secondary schools there were at which over *(a)* 30, *(b)* 50 and *(c)* 70 per cent. of pupils achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, in each of the last five years. [304750]

Mr. Coaker: The following table gives the requested time series.

Number of schools at which the indicated percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieve five or more GCSEs at grade A-C including English and maths GCSEs*

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
30 per cent. or more	2,843	2,979	2,991	3,130	3,242
50 per cent. or more	1,637	1,756	1,760	1,846	1,912
70 per cent. or more	805	842	776	780	795

Only schools with greater than 10 pupils at the end of key stage 4 have been counted. Academies and city technology colleges have been included.

Figures are cumulative in nature. If a school is featured in the 70 per cent. or more row then it will also be in the 30 per cent. and 50 per cent. rows.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in receipt of free school meals achieved seven GCSEs, including *(a)* physics, *(b)* biology, *(c)* chemistry, *(d)* mathematics, *(e)* English, *(f)* English literature and *(g)* history in (i) 1997, (ii) 2003, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009. [304902]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested figures have been presented in the following table. However, achievement data matched to pupil characteristics (including free school meals) are not available for 1997.

Number and percentage of pupils[1] in maintained schools eligible for free school meals achieving seven or more GCSEs[2] at grade A-G or the equivalent, including a GCSE in:*	2003		2008		2009	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Physics	1,012	1.2	2,053	2.7	2,932	3.9
Biology	1,207	1.5	2,558	3.4	3,376	4.5
Chemistry	1,112	1.4	2,104	2.8	2,963	4.0
Mathematics	51,155	63.0	54,154	72.4	56,584	76.1
English	52,077	64.2	54,282	72.6	56,818	76.4
English Literature	47,129	58.1	42,321	56.6	41,263	55.5
History	13,565	16.7	12,143	16.2	12,459	16.8

[1] In 2003 figures are based on pupils aged 15-years-old whereas in 2008 and 2009 they are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4.
[2] In 2003 figures include GNVQs as GCSE equivalents. In 2008 and 2009, figures include additional equivalent qualifications approved for pre-16 use.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals did not achieve A* to C at GCSE in both English and mathematics in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [312245]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* Pupil level data relating to free school meal eligibility were not collected as far back as 1997. The information requested is presented for 2003 (the earliest available year) and 2009 in the following table and is for maintained schools only.

	Number of pupils not achieving A-C at GCSE in both English and mathematics*	*Proportion of pupils not achieving A*-C at GCSE in both English and mathematics (percentage)*
2003		
Eligible for FSM	67,195	82.8
Not eligible for FSM	266,217	53.9

	Number of pupils not achieving A*-C at GCSE in both English and mathematics	Proportion of pupils not achieving A*-C at GCSE in both English and mathematics (percentage)
2009		
Eligible for FSM	54,190	72.9
Not eligible for FSM	227,963	45.2

Note:
Figures for 2003 are based on pupils aged 15 and for 2009 are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4.
Source:
National Pupil Database

Phil Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children obtained five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in schools where *(a)* fewer than 10, *(b)* more than 20 and *(c)* more than 50 per cent. of pupils were eligible for free school meals in each year since 2005. [314581]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested in presented in the following table and covers maintained mainstream schools:

Proportion of pupils at end of key stage 4 achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A-C including English and mathematics*

Percentage

FSM group (based on pupils of all ages in school)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Schools with fewer than 10 FSM pupils	55	57	58	60	62
Schools with 20 or more FSM pupils	26	29	32	34	38
Schools with 50 or more FSM pupils	24	27	31	34	37

Notes:
1. Figures for 2009 are revised. All other years are final.
2. Pupils present in the >50 per cent. FSM data will also be present in the >20 per cent. FSM data.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who gained five GCSEs at grades A* to C did so by passing a qualification equivalent to *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* more than two GCSEs in 2009. [315529]

Mr. Coaker: There were 444,302 pupils at the end of key stage 4 who achieved five or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at A*-C in 2009. A number of these pupils achieved less than 5 GCSE passes (full, double awards and short courses) and reached the threshold by including non-GCSE qualifications (referred to as equivalents) in their attainment. Of the pupils including non-GCSE qualifications to reach the threshold:

22,605 achieved four or 4.5 GCSE qualifications and therefore at least include non-GCSE qualifications up to the size of one full GCSE.

17,791 achieved between three and four GCSE qualifications and therefore include non-GCSE qualifications at least equivalent to between one and two full GCSEs.

39,367 achieved less than three GCSE qualifications and therefore include non-GCSE qualifications equivalent to more than two GCSEs.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students in each London borough achieved five or more grades at A* to C at GCSE or equivalent in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [319062]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested can be found in the following Statistical First Release (SFR) (table 17):

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000909/index.shtml

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of white *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls eligible for free school meals did not achieve A* to C at GCSE in both English and mathematics in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [312243]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 January 2010]:* Pupil level data relating to ethnicity and Free School Meal eligibility were not collected as far back as 1997. The information requested for 2003 (the earliest year available) and 2009 is presented in the following table and is for maintained schools only.

	Number of white pupils eligible for free school meals not achieving A*-C at GCSE in both English and mathematics	Proportion of white pupils eligible for free school meals not achieving A*-C at GCSE in both English and mathematics (percentage)
2003		
Boys	24,404	86.9
Girls	23,022	83.8
2009		
Boys	20,684	80.0
Girls	18,723	75.0

Note:
Figures for 2003 are based on pupils age 15 and for 2009 are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.
Source:
National Pupil Database

Gifted Children: Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in *(a)* Lewes constituency and *(b)* East Sussex have participated in gifted and talented programmes in each year since 2000. [308532]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect data about participation in gifted and talented programmes. Through the School Census schools are asked to confirm the number of gifted and talented pupils they have identified. The following tables show the number and percentage of children identified as gifted and talented in the local authority of East Sussex and in the constituency of Lewes in the January census between 2006, when the question was first asked, and 2009.

2006 records include secondary G&T pupil data only. Otherwise, figures include primary[1] and secondary[1, 2] school data broken down by the number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils.

[1] All data include middle schools as deemed.

[2] All data include city technology colleges and academies.

[3] All data show solely registered pupils only.

Maintained primary and state-funded secondary[1, 2] schools: Number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils, as at January each year, in East Sussex local authority

	Maintained primary schools		State-funded secondary schools		Primary and secondary schools	
	Number of gifted and talented pupils	Percentage of gifted and talented pupils	Number of gifted and talented pupils	Percentage of gifted and talented pupils	Number of gifted and talented pupils	Percentage of gifted and talented pupils
2009	3,770	10.7	4,154	15.0	7,920	12.6
2008	4,020	11.3	4,190	14.9	8,210	12.9
2007	4,570	12.8	3,750	13.1	8,320	12.9
2006	—	—	2,990	10.4	—	—

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[2, 3] schools: Number[3] and percentage of gifted and talented pupils, as at January each year, in the Lewes constituency

	Maintained primary schools		State-funded secondary schools		Primary and secondary schools	
	Number of gifted and talented pupils	Percentage of gifted and talented pupils	Number of gifted and talented pupils	Percentage of gifted and talented pupils	Number of gifted and talented pupils	Percentage of gifted and talented pupils
2009	580	10.0	840	18.7	1,410	13.8
2008	620	10.6	930	20.7	1,550	15.0
2007	740	12.7	540	11.7	1,280	12.3
2006	—	—	630	13.4	—	—

[1] All data include middle schools as deemed.
[2] All data include city technology colleges and academies.
[3] All data show solely registered pupils only.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

A data table showing information for all constituencies in England has been placed in the Libraries.

Health Visitors: Children's Centres

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start *(a)* centres and *(b)* health visitors there are in each London borough; and how many such (i) centres and (ii) health visitors he expects there to be in each London borough in each of the next five years. [323776]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table details how many designated Sure Start children's centres there were in each London borough at the end of February 2010, and how many are planned to open or merge for the rest of 2010.

Local authority	Designated children's centres at end of February 2010	Net expected increase due to planned designations and mergers for rest of 2010
Barking and Dagenham	16	2
Barnet	18	4
Bexley	13	3
Brent	15	5
Bromley	19	3
Camden	17	0
Croydon	26	0
Ealing	22	6
Enfield	24	0
Greenwich	24	1
Hackney	19	1
Hammersmith and Fulham	15	0
Haringey	17	2
Harrow	13	3
Havering	13	1
Hillingdon	12	6
Hounslow	14	4
Islington	16	0
Kensington and Chelsea	8	0
Kingston upon Thames	11	0
Lambeth	20	-1
Lewisham	17	2
London, City of	1	0
Merton	11	0
Newham	20	0
Redbridge	14	8
Richmond upon Thames	9	3
Southwark	21	0
Sutton	14	0
Tower Hamlets	23	0
Waltham Forest	17	0
Wandsworth	25	1
Westminster, City of	13	0

There are currently no further children's centres planned beyond 2010. Figures for the number of current health visitors working in children's centres in each London borough, and the numbers expected in the next five years, are not collected centrally.

Languages: GCSE

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage Four in current National Challenge schools *(a)* took and *(b)* achieved a grade A* to C at GCSE in a modern foreign language in each of the last five years. [314465]

Mr. Coaker: The number and percentage of pupils in the 2009 national challenge schools who entered and achieved a GCSE in modern foreign language is as follows:

	Number of pupils who entered MFL in national challenge schools	*Percentage of pupils who entered MFL in national challenge schools*	*Number of pupils who achieved GCSE A*-C MFL in national challenge schools*	*Percentage of pupils who achieved A*-C MFL in national challenge schools*
2005	10,818	33.9	4,278	13.4
2006	7,805	23.7	3,526	10.7
2007	6,679	19.0	3,277	9.3
2008	7,280	19.9	3,636	10.0
2009	6,447	17.0	3,227	8.5

Notes:
1. Qualifications included are full GCSEs, GCSE double awards and GCSEs in Applied subjects only.
2. The percentage of pupils achieving is based on all pupils in national challenge schools, not just those entered.
3. A pass rate based on those entered can be calculated by dividing the number of pupils who achieve a grade A*-C by the number of pupils entered for MFL.

Mathematics: GCE A-Level

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many white *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls eligible for free school meals achieved an A grade in A-level further mathematics in (i) 1980 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [310104]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* Pupil level data relating to ethnicity and free school meal eligibility were not collected as far back as 1980.

In 2008, nine (42.9 per cent.) white British boys and three (50.0 per cent.) white British girls eligible for free school meals achieved an A grade in A-level further mathematics. The percentages indicated are of white British students eligible for free school meals of the appropriate gender who were entered for a GCE A-level in further maths.

The figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2007) in maintained schools only who were eligible for free school meals when they were academic age 16. The figures do not include the achievement of students in further education sector colleges previously eligible for free school meals.

Multiple Births

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to assist multiple birth families; and if he will make a statement. [325184]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: High quality parenting and family support services in children's centres with appropriate outreach can help ensure that all parents—including families with twins and other multiple births—have access to the support they need to give them the best possible start in life. There are now over 3,000 designated children's centres many of which run Twins Groups providing support and activities for parents with twins enabling them to meet and share their experiences. The Schools Admissions Code includes guidance at paragraph 2.25 on siblings and twins, stating:

'the admissions authorities for primary schools should ensure in their oversubscription criteria that siblings (including twins, triplets or children from other multiple births) can attend the same primary school, as long as they comply with the Education (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations 1998'.

Music: Primary Education

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to encourage the teaching of music in primary schools; and if he will make a statement. [320841]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Music is a legal entitlement for all young people aged five-14 in England as it is a statutory subject within the national curriculum.

In addition the Government have, since 1999, provided funding to local authorities through the Standards Fund Music Grant to support local music provision. Since the Government's pledge in 2001 that over time all primary pupils who wanted to should have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, the widening of access to instrumental provision at Key Stage 2 has been a priority call on the Music Grant. Also, since 2006, there has also been an additional element to the grant solely for delivering local instrumental and vocal tuition to children at Key Stage 2. Some local authorities also make their own contribution to local music making.

Another important element of the Government's £332 million commitment to music education 2008-11 is their support for the national singing programme, 'Sing Up'. The programme, which receives £10 million a year, aims, by March 2011, to enable every primary school-aged child to take part in daily high-quality singing activity, and for all primary schools in England to become 'Singing Schools'.

Over the current academic year, music is being celebrated through "Tune In—Year of Music". The wide range of music related experiences available to children and young people across England will be showcased over the year, and all children—whatever their talent—are being encouraged to get involved in music.

Olympic Games: Canada

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such attendance. [310854]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Since 1999, the Government have published, on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. From 2007/08, the list was extended to include all Ministers. The list also provides information on the number of officials who accompany Ministers. Copies are available in the Libraries. Information for 2009/10 will be published as soon as the information is available.

All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code' and 'Civil Service Management Code', respectively.

Primary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department had spent on preparations for implementation of the recommendations of the Rose Review of the Primary Curriculum on the latest date for which figures are available. [324173]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: From the beginning of the current financial year until the end of February 2010, the Department had spent £158,000 on preparations for implementation of the recommendations of the Rose Review of the primary curriculum.

In addition to this figure, the Department has allocated £2,014,000 this financial year to the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency for this purpose and a further £250,000 to the National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services.

Public Sector

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to share services, functions and back offices with local authorities as part of the Total Place initiative. [323958]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Government's report on Total Place will be published alongside Budget 2010.

School Meals

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance schools have been given on the implementation of the Healthy Eating in Schools paper; and how much has been spent on that implementation. [316092]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In March 2006, Ofsted published its report 'Healthy Eating in Schools', which assessed how schools had responded to guidance on school meals and healthier eating.

The report made a small number of recommendations relating to: the training of catering staff; lunch time management and the dining environment; school food policies; involvement of pupils and parents and quality monitoring by schools. Those recommendations have all been addressed over the course of the last four years, during which time mandatory standards have been introduced for all maintained primary, secondary and special schools, covering all food served by schools during a school day.

A number of pieces of guidance have been produced by the School Food Trust, as the Department's key delivery partner, including: A Fresh Look at the School Meal Experience; Guide to the Nutrient-based Standards for School Lunches; Nutritional Analysis Support Package (NASP); Calculating the Nutrient Content of School Lunch Recipes: A Caterer's Guide; and Special Educational Needs Schools guidance.

There has been significant government investment of over £676 million between 2005 and 2011. This includes funding to help support the cost of a school lunch, to help build or refurbish kitchen and dining facilities, to better support the development of training centres for the school food work force and for improved marketing and communications to increase take up.

Schools: Cadets

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much Government funding school combined cadet forces have received in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [323634]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not held centrally.

Funding for any particular MOD Sponsored Cadet Force, such as the Combined Cadet Forces, comes from a wide variety of sources including the single services, the use of subsidised facilities, and non-Government sources such as local donations and fundraising efforts. To determine how much funding has been allocated to specific Cadet Forces would require a manual search of records and incur a disproportionate cost.

The Government remain committed to the Cadet Organisation whose origins date back 150 years. It is one of the oldest and most successful voluntary youth organisations in the world. Today it numbers 131,000 young people, led by 25,000 adult volunteers, in well over 3,000 sites across the country.

Schools: Email

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary, *(c)* special and *(d)* all schools spent on maintaining email addresses for school staff and pupils in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [311879]

Mr. Coaker: Schools are funded for technology purposes by the Harnessing Technology Grant. Schools are also free to use money from other sources on technological services and infrastructure. However, data on funding of email addresses specifically are not collected, and

schools and local authorities are free to decide locally how to apportion the funding across the various types of technology.

Schools: Racism

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will extend the terms of reference of his Department's review of the provisions which prevent the promotion of racism in schools to include the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir. [311557]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Secretary of State announced on 30 September 2009 that he had asked Maurice Smith, the former chief inspector of schools, to look into the issue of racism in maintained schools and report his findings by the end of January 2010. Maurice Smith's report was published on 12 March and a copy placed in the Libraries.

The Secretary of State has accepted the recommendations in full and has asked Maurice Smith to conduct an additional review looking at the safeguards in place in independent schools. The handling of the review will be a matter for Maurice Smith to determine, although he will be free to gather evidence about the activities of any group or organisation. He has been asked to submit his report to the Secretary of State in September 2010.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the list of all organisations consulted by *(a)* Mr Maurice Smith and *(b)* officials of his Department assisting Mr Maurice Smith as part of Mr Smith's review of provisions against the promotion of racism in schools. [314908]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* The Secretary of State announced on 30 September 2009 that he had asked Maurice Smith, the former chief inspector of schools, to look into the issue of racism in maintained schools and report his findings by the end of January 2010. Maurice Smith's report was published on 12 March. The report includes details of all the organisations that contributed to the review and a copy has been placed in the Libraries.

A copy of the report has been placed in the Libraries when it was published, and it included details of all the organisations that contributed to the review.

Schools: St. George's Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department plans to promote St. George's Day in schools in 2010. [322600]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: There are no plans for the Department to promote St. George's day in schools. The citizenship curriculum already contributes towards building and promoting a British identity and shared British values, and it offers opportunities to explore what it is to be British. However, it is a local decision for schools to choose if they wish to celebrate St. George's day or not.

Schools: Vetting

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 695W, on vetting: local education authorities, what the timetable is for the review of requirements for Criminal Records Bureau disclosures. [323035]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 29WS.

Social Services: Children

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children in custody have previously been in care. [323434]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

However, Her Majesty's inspectorate of prisons (HMIP) and the Youth Justice Board publish an annual survey of children and young people in custody. The survey for 2008-09 involved 1,100 young people detained in 18 establishments across the secure estate. This reported that 24 per cent. of young men and 49 per cent. of the 54 young women in the survey had been looked after at some point in their lives. It is important to understand that that the overall number of children with a care background in custody is small relative to the total number of looked-after children above the age of criminal responsibility.

This report is available from the HMIP website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectorates/hmi-prisons/index.htm

Sure Start Programme: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start *(a)* centres and *(b)* health visitors there were in each London borough in each year since 2003. [325563]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table details how many designated Sure Start children's centres there were in each London borough in each year since 2003.

Figures for the number of health visitors working in children's centres in each London borough since 2003 were not collected centrally.

	Year of designation							
Local authority	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	3	6	11	14	16	16
Barnet	0	0	0	2	3	13	14	18

Local authority	Year of designation							
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	[1]2010
Bexley	0	0	1	4	12	12	13	13
Brent	0	0	1	4	5	11	14	14
Bromley	0	0	0	1	10	15	18	18
Camden	1	7	7	10	15	16	17	17
Croydon	0	1	1	3	12	20	20	26
Ealing	2	2	5	10	18	22	22	22
Enfield	0	0	0	7	11	17	24	24
Greenwich	1	1	1	9	16	23	24	24
Hackney	1	1	1	8	13	19	19	19
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	1	4	5	6	12	14	15
Haringey	0	4	7	10	15	17	17	17
Harrow	0	0	0	3	7	9	13	13
Havering	0	0	0	0	3	10	11	13
Hillingdon	1	1	1	1	5	12	12	12
Hounslow	0	0	2	3	13	14	14	14
Islington	2	8	8	9	11	16	16	16
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	0	4	7	8	8	8
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	0	0	4	7	11	11
Lambeth	1	1	1	12	14	24	28	28
Lewisham	0	1	1	3	8	15	17	17
London, City of	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Merton	0	0	1	1	7	9	11	11
Newham	0	0	0	5	13	20	20	20
Redbridge	0	0	2	4	6	14	14	14
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	0	6	9	9	9
Southwark	2	2	3	9	14	21	21	21
Sutton	0	0	1	1	4	10	14	14
Tower Hamlets	1	1	1	10	14	21	21	23
Waltham Forest	0	1	3	6	12	14	17	17
Wandsworth	0	0	2	3	12	16	23	23
Westminster, City of	0	4	4	3	7	12	12	15
Total	12	36	61	159	315	473	525	543

[1] Figures valid up until end of February

Teachers: Males

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* constituency did not have a male teacher at the latest date for which information is available. [324535]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of local authority maintained nursery and primary schools in each local authority and parliamentary constituency that do not have a male teacher in service, in England, January 2009, the latest information available, have been placed in the House Libraries.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for a successor strategy to the teenage pregnancy strategy. [324023]

Dawn Primarolo: On 24 February 2010—to coincide with the publication of the latest (2008) under-18 conception data by the Office for National Statistics—the Department and the Department of Health jointly published "Teenage Pregnancy Strategy: Beyond 2010", which sets out the Government's on-going commitment to reducing England's teenage pregnancy rate. A copy can be found at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/healthandwellbeing/teenagepregnancy

Truancy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of primary school pupils were persistent absentees in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* constituency in each of the last 10 years. [324537]

Mr. Coaker: Information on persistent absentees in primary schools is only available from 2006/07 onwards. Information at local authority level for 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09, and parliamentary constituency level for 2007/08 and 2008/09 has been placed in the Libraries. To provide further information would incur disproportionate cost.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 7 April 2010

TRANSPORT

Croydon

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will set out with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to the Croydon Central constituency, the effects of his Department's policies on that constituency since 2005. [325822]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport does not routinely hold transport statistics on a parliamentary constituency basis. However, the Department provides Transport for London (TfL) with a block grant to fund transport delivery in London. This grant has more than doubled in the last nine years, rising to some £3.3 billion in 2010-11. Drawing on these and other resources, the Mayor is responsible for publishing and, through TfL, implementing a Transport Strategy for London, while the boroughs are required to publish local implementation plans which set out how they will contribute to the Mayor's strategy.

Bus services in London have improved. 2,247 million passenger journeys were made in 2008-09 and patronage grew by grew by 40 per cent. between 2000-09.

Concessionary travel continues to benefit elderly and disabled Londoners, and more than a million older people currently hold a Freedom Pass.

South London rail routes serving Croydon have also improved. Southern have delivered a new fleet of trains, some of which operate on South London services, and the remaining rolling stock has been refurbished.

TfL took over operational control of Croydon Tramlink in June 2008. Approximately 27.2 million passenger journeys were made on Croydon Tramlink in 2008-09.

On the roads, national targets to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured by 40 per cent. and reduce the number of "slight" casualties by 10 per cent. (compared to the period 1994-98) by 2010 were largely exceeded by TfL by 2004, leading to TfL setting themselves new targets of 50 per cent and 25 per cent. respectively.

Various improvements in relation to cycling have also been realised across London. TfL report that cycling now accounts for 2 per cent. of trips in London compared to 1.2 per cent in 2000, and London is the only major city in the world to have achieved a modal shift away from the car. From 2000-2009 the mode share of private motorised transport has fallen by around 6 per cent, levels of cycling have almost doubled and public transport use has risen dramatically. On an average weekday over one million people enter Central London on public transport during the morning peak.

Driving: Disqualification

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress has been made on the adoption of the 1998 European Convention on Driving Disqualifications; and what steps he has taken to promote mutual recognition of driving disqualifications in EU member states. [325677]

Paul Clark: On 28 January 2010 mutual recognition of driving disqualifications between the UK and Ireland entered into force.

We wish to gain practical experience with our arrangements with Ireland before considering mutual recognition with other member states.

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make it his policy not to proceed with his Department's proposals for a third runway at Heathrow Airport. [325676]

Paul Clark: The High Court ruling on 26 March 2010 does not require us to change our policy, which remains to support a third runway at Heathrow subject to conditions, including compliance with limits in respect of noise and local air quality. The ruling acknowledges that the Heathrow decisions announced in January 2009 are part of a continuing process which, under the Planning Act 2008, will involve further steps including the preparation of a national policy statement for airports and further consultation, and that this process provides a complete legal framework for considering all the issues raised in the court case.

Railway Stations

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect on (i) rail services and (ii) the energy consumption of trains of station stops aligned (A) horizontally and (B) vertically. [325698]

Chris Mole: HS2 Ltd. commissioned Imperial College to undertake traction energy modelling, which included the impact of station stops. This report was published earlier this month and is available on HS2 Ltd.'s website

www.hs2.org.uk/supporting-documents-temp

Railways: Construction

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how long on average it takes to travel from each of *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Aberdeen, *(c)* Norwich, *(d)* Exeter, *(e)* Middlesbrough, *(f)* Liverpool and *(g)* Milton Keynes to each of (i) Brussels, (ii) Madrid, (iii) Chicago and (iv) Tokyo; and what the equivalent average travel times are expected to be following completion of the HS2 core network. [325700]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold this information in the form requested.

The completion of the potential HS2 core network would accelerate surface access to certain UK airports, but actual time savings would depend on rail and airline service patterns and timetabling at that time.

Sea Rescue: Emergency Exits

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reason the fire escape at Flamborough Head coastguard station is considered inadequate for its purpose. [325742]

Paul Clark: Flamborough Head coastguard rescue team base is located in an old three-storey building. Each storey is a single, small room and the room on the ground-floor is used to house unmanned radio equipment. A single narrow staircase is the only means of access and escape. This arrangement does not meet modern fire safety standards.

Sea Rescue: Fire Services

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many fires requiring evacuation there have been at Flamborough Head coastguard station in the last 30 years. [325744]

Paul Clark: There have been no fires requiring evacuation at the volunteer Flamborough Head Coastguard Rescue Team base in the last 30 years.

Sea Rescue: Standards

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what studies his Department has conducted on the likely effect on incident response times of the closure of Flamborough Head coastguard station. [325743]

Paul Clark: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has considered the effect of closing its Flamborough Head volunteer coastguard rescue team base and has concluded that incident response times will be unaffected.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the bringing into service of new Thameslink rolling stock is dependent on the provision of additional train maintenance depots. [325801]

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the introduction of new Thameslink rolling stock is dependent upon the establishment of new train maintenance depots. [325832]

Chris Mole: I can confirm that the bringing into service of new Thameslink rolling stock is dependent on the provision of additional train maintenance depots.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) when he expects to announce his decision on the location of additional train maintenance depots for new Thameslink trains; [R] [325802]

(2) what plans he has to *(a)* establish new and *(b)* develop existing train maintenance depots to support the new fleet of Thameslink trains. [R] [325804]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is planning to establish new depots to support the new fleet of Thameslink trains at Hornsey in the London borough of Haringey and at Three Bridges in the borough of Crawley.

Network Rail has commenced the process for securing planning consents for these depots with the relevant local authorities. It would be inappropriate to comment on the outcome of these discussions at this stage.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) which locations are being considered for the construction of additional train maintenance depots to service new Thameslink trains; [R] [325803]

(2) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with representatives of (i) Network Rail, (ii) train operating companies and (iii) local authorities on the provision of additional train maintenance depots for the new Thameslink rolling stock. [R] [325805]

Chris Mole: Department for Transport officials have had a number of discussions with Network Rail, train operating companies and local authorities regarding the additional train maintenance depots for the new Thameslink rolling stock. We are proposing a new depot in Hornsey in the London borough of Haringey and at Three Bridges in the borough of Crawley.

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of building new train maintenance depots for Thameslink stations at different locations. [325833]

Chris Mole: Department for Transport officials have worked closely with Network Rail and the train operating companies to assess the options for locating new train maintenance depots for the new Thameslink rolling stock. We are proposing a new depot in Hornsey in the London borough of Haringey and at Three Bridges in the borough of Crawley.

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Network Rail, *(b)* train operating companies and *(c)* local authorities on new train maintenance depots for the new Thameslink rolling stock. [325834]

Chris Mole: Department for Transport officials have had a number of discussions with Network Rail, train operating companies and local authorities regarding the new train maintenance depots for the new Thameslink rolling stock. We are proposing a new depot in Hornsey in the London borough of Haringey and at Three Bridges in the borough of Crawley.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 19W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what the average cost of *(a)* aviation and *(b)* vehicle fuel was (i) per litre and (ii) per imperial gallon in each such year. [322182]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The average monthly price of fuel for operations in Afghanistan is:

	Aviation fuel per litre (£)	Vehicle fuel per litre (£)
Period		
April 2009 - end January 2010	1.325	1.25
May 2008 - March 2009	1.46	1.38

We purchase fuel in litres and keep records only on this basis. The costs per litre prior to May 2008 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 674W, on armed forces: manpower, what the shortfall of *(a)* reservists and *(b)* regular (i) medical, (ii) nursing and (iii) paramedic staff was on 1 October in each year since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [322550]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is shown in the following tables for regular and reserve forces. To enable comparisons with past years using the data currently available, the total 'requirement' figures include 'manning and training margins' and the 'manning' figures include personnel who were both trained and in-training. Shortfalls have been addressed by a variety of means and they have never resulted in the Defence Medical Services being unable to meet their operational commitments. The standard of medical care provided to service patients remains extremely high as has been recognised by the House of Commons Defence Committee and the National Audit Office.

Regular forces

	Requirement	Manning	Shortfall (percentage)
Data as of 1 October 2002			
Doctors	1,060	918	13
Nurses	1,976	1,600	19
Dental Officers and Allied Dental Healthcare Professionals	817	858	-5[1]
Medical Allied Health Professionals	4,610	3,748	19
Total	8,463	7,124	16
Data as of 1 October 2003			
Doctors	1,168	897	23
Nurses	2,015	1,735	14
Dental Officers and Allied Dental Healthcare Professionals	845	875	-4[1]
Medical Allied Health Professionals	4,542	4,101	10
Total	8,570	7,608	11
Data as of 1 October 2004			
Doctors	1,199	998	17
Nurses	2,052	1,805	12
Dental Officers and Allied Dental Healthcare Professionals	913	829	9
Medical Allied Health Professionals	5,255	3,846	27
Total	9,419	7,478	21
Data as of 1 October 2005			
Doctors	1,155	1,037	10
Nurses	2,068	1,725	17
Dental Officers and Allied Dental Healthcare Professionals	886	820	7
Medical Allied Health Professionals	5,108	4,084	20
Total	9,217	7,666	17
Data as of 1 October 2006			
Doctors	—	911	—
Nurses	—	1,758	—
Dental Officers and Allied Dental Healthcare Professionals	—	790	—
Medical Allied Health Professionals	—	4,029	—
Total	—	7,488	—
Data as of 1 October 2007			
Doctors	1,132	1,050	7
Nurses	1,889	1,745	8
Dental Officers and Allied Dental Healthcare Professionals	992	788	21
Medical Allied Health Professionals	4,286	4,221	2
Total	8,298	7,804	6
Data as of 1 October 2008			
Doctors	1,137	1,113	2
Nurses	1,901	1,723	9
Dental Officers and Allied Dental Healthcare Professionals	984	796	19
Medical Allied Health Professionals	4,276	4,267	0
Total	8,298	7,899	5
Data as of 1 October 2009			
Doctors	1,137	1,076	5
Nurses	1,901	1,677	12
Dental Officers and Allied Dental Healthcare Professionals	984	774	21
Medical Allied Health Professionals	4,276	4,063	5
Total	8,298	7,590	9

[1] Surplus

Notes:

1. Requirement figures include 'manning and training margins'.
2. Manning data include personnel who are both trained and in-training.
3. Requirement data not available for October 2006 as these were being recast in a DMS-wide study at that date.
4. 'Medical Allied Health professionals' include the paramedics cadre.

Reserve forces (Army and Navy)

	Requirement	Trained strength	Shortfall (percentage)
Data as of 1 October 2002			
Medical officers	771	499	35
Nurses	2,343	1,337	43
Medical support services	2,017	1,592	21
Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals	128	57	55
Total	5,259	3,485	34
Data as of 1 October 2003			
Medical officers	857	544	37
Nurses	2,487	1,390	44
Medical support services	2,357	1,456	38
Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals	128	55	57
Total	5,829	3,445	41
Data as of 1 October 2004			
Medical officers	566	354	37
Nurses	2,114	1,076	49
Medical support services	1,640	1,154	30
Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals	128	52	59
Total	4,448	2,636	41
Data as of 1 October 2005			
Medical officers	566	348	39
Nurses	2,105	1,024	51
Medical support services	1,388	1,077	22
Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals	128	50	61
Total	4,187	2,499	40
Data as of 1 October 2006			
Medical officers	566	339	40
Nurses	2,105	973	54
Medical support services	1,300	1,032	21
Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals	40	25	38
Total	4,011	2,369	41
Data as of 1 October 2007			
Medical officers	527	333	37
Nurses	2,053	815	60
Medical support services	1,300	887	32
Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals	40	16	60
Total	3,920	2,051	48
Data as of 1 October 2008			
Medical officers	618	336	46
Nurses	1,400	883	37
Medical support services	1,100	960	13
Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals	27	18	33
Total	3,145	2,197	30
Data as of 1 October 2009			
Medical officers	607	326	46
Nurses	1,440	813	44
Medical support services	1,104	882	20
Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals	27	16	41
Total	3,178	2,037	36

Notes:
1. 'Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals' include dental practitioners, dental support officers, dental surgery assistants and dental technicians.
2. 'Medical Support Services' include the paramedic cadre.
3. Data is only available in this form over this period for RN and Army Reservists.

Royal Auxiliary Air Force (RAuxAF)

	Requirement	Trained strength	Shortfall (percentage)
Data as of 1 October 2002			
Total (all specialties)	225	154	32
Data as of 1 October 2003			
Total (all specialties)	227	149	34
Data as of 1 October 2004			
Total (all specialties)	229	133	42
Data as of 1 October 2005			
Total (all specialties)	229	112	51
Data as of 1 October 2006			
Total (all specialties)	229	98	57
Data as of 1 October 2007			
Total (all specialties)	227	93	59
Data as of 1 October 2008			
Total (all specialties)	227	95	58
Data as of 1 October 2009			
Medical officers	33	12	64
Nurses	86	44	49
Medical Support Officers	6	4	33
Dental officers and allied dental healthcare professionals	109	62	43
Total	234	122	49

Notes:
1. In 2009, the data system for recording RAuxAF manpower statistics was revised to contain more detail, including the introduction of recording personnel by trade.
2. For pre-2009 statistics, a breakdown of total numbers by trade could only be provided through manual search of the Joint Personnel Administration database. This information could therefore only be obtained at disproportionate cost. For years prior to 2009 the total shortfall percentage is provided.

Armed Forces: Rescue Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he expects to sign *(a)* a contract and *(b)* any other agreement with the preferred bidder for the provision of search and rescue helicopter services from 2012 before the Dissolution of Parliament. [325816]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 16W.

Army: Allergies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the applications guidelines of the Armed Forces Careers Office, Form 5, June 2007, how many people have been refused entry into the Army on the grounds of an allergic disorder in each of the last five years; and how many such refusals were the subject of an appeal supported by medical evidence. [325762]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information on the number of individuals who have been refused entry to the British Army on the grounds of an allergic disorder is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, I can confirm that the Army recruiting and training division headquarters have considered 21 allergy-related appeals against non-selection over the last five years. Of these appeals, four were successful, two were withdrawn and 15 were unsuccessful.

Chinook Helicopters

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will set out the details of the contract he has signed with Boeing in respect of the acquisition of additional Chinook helicopters; and whether *(a)* the contract will provide for the provision of the Julius cockpit design and *(b)* the helicopters will be acquired under the US foreign military sales. [325790]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Long-lead engineering work and acquisition of long-lead manufacturing components will be undertaken under the contract signed with Boeing on 23 March 2010. This work is necessary to protect the critical path to delivery of initial aircraft during the course of 2012 and 2013.

No final decision has yet been made on the cockpit configuration, nor on the procurement route, although if the Julius cockpit solution is selected this would not be under a US foreign military sale. I expect the Main Gate investment decision to be taken very shortly.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what restrictions there are on his Department's officials regarding the disclosure of information on future defence policy matters; and if he will make a statement. [324524]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* MOD officials may disclose official information only in accordance with current rules and procedures including, in the case of civil servants, the Civil Service Code and in compliance with the Official Secrets Acts, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Departmental Publications

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent Armed Forces Families Continuous Attitude survey. [325550]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Each service conducts a Families Continuous Attitude survey. The aim is to assess and monitor the attitude of serving personnel's spouses in key areas such as housing, child care, communication and welfare. The results obtained help to formulate strategic policy and identify specific trends, such as quality of service families' accommodation or the effectiveness of MODern Housing.

The most recent reports from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 22-3W, on departmental temporary employment, what the total amount spent on employing temporary staff was in *(a)* each of the last three years and *(b)* 2009-10 to date. [324328]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Manpower substitutes are only engaged to fill funded posts until permanent recruitment can be completed or where the posts cannot be filled by other means. They are particularly important where units are closing or merging to enable permanent staff to be redeployed to secure posts while maintaining the role of the unit until closure, to ensure that services to the front line or other critical areas do not suffer gaps while permanent recruitment takes place or to temporarily fill specialist posts where the gap is caused by the individual being forward deployed.

While a great deal of work is being undertaken to increase the information available on the amount of money spent across the Ministry of Defence on manpower substitutes, this work is still ongoing and will improve further as the People Pay and Pensions Agency assumes more responsibility for delivering manpower substitution services for more categories of temporary staff. Consequently, the information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Electronic Warfare

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the feasibility of strengthening military systems against electromagnetic attacks; and what estimate he has made of the cost of undertaking such work. [323136]

Bill Rammell: It would not be in the interests of national security to provide information about specific vulnerabilities, assessments or protective measures relating to electromagnetic attack.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects on the critical infrastructure of his Department of an electromagnetic pulse strike caused *(a)* deliberately and *(b)* through solar activity. [321755]

Bill Rammell: Information about specific vulnerabilities, assessments or protective measures relating to electromagnetic pulse strike is being withheld for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Members: Correspondence

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 1117W, on armed forces: housing, when he plans to write to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife. [325678]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I wrote to the hon. Member on 29 March 2010.

Snow and Ice

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of his Department have taken authorised days of absence owing to severe weather in 2010. [322623]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information on the number of members in the Ministry of Defence who have taken authorised days of absence owing to severe weather in 2010 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

War Pensions

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future provision of services to war pensioners; whether he plans to close any war pensions offices; and if he will make a statement. [325697]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Veterans Welfare Service (VWS) is part of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) and provides one to one support, via telephone and home visits, to veterans throughout the UK and Ireland. Advice can be offered on many issues but the most common are war pension/compensation entitlement and applications, housing, benefits, employment and personal welfare.

The VWS has been reorganised into five regional centres each providing one to one telephone advice. This has improved customer service and efficiency, without reducing the capacity to handle cases. All the welfare managers who conduct home visits have been retained.

Veterans organisations were advised of the change and War Pensions Committee chairmen formally gave their backing.

Weapons: Transport

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the *(a)* transport cost in respect of and *(b)* carbon emissions arising from (i) the arrangements for supply of armaments under his Department's pilot scheme and (ii) the transition to direct delivery of such armaments. [325584]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 6 April 2010]:* The additional transport costs of the pilot scheme to assess the feasibility of direct delivery of armaments to Ministry of Defence depots to supply Royal Naval vessels is assessed as small in terms of the overall savings achievable, equating to around two vehicles per week.

No estimate has yet been made of the change in carbon emissions which might result from the pilot scheme, or the overall implementation of the improvement programme.

JUSTICE

Croydon

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Croydon Central constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 2005. [325588]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice's work spans criminal, civil and family justice, democracy, rights and the constitution. Every year around nine million people use, our services in 900 locations across the United Kingdom, including 650 courts and tribunals and 139 prisons in England and Wales.

The range of the Department's policies and actions is wide and the statistical information relating to it is not normally collected on a constituency basis. Consequently, some of the information requested in the question cannot be provided in the form requested except at a disproportionate cost.

Although data on sentencing for the period are not available for the constituency of Croydon, Central, they are available for London. These show the total number of offenders sentenced annually was 216,107 in 2005 and 242,429 in 2008, the latest period for which such information is available.

The number of offences brought to justice for London increased from 182,350 for the 12 months ending 31 March 2006 to 230,202 (provisional figures) for the 12 months ending 31 March 2009.

With regard to prosecutions, data are not available for the constituency of Croydon, Central. However, the total number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts by the Metropolitan Police was 261,617 in 2005, compared to 279,581 in 2008.

The latest data, which cover reoffending in the period 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009, showed that the three month reoffending rate for offenders on the probation caseload in Croydon was 9.49 per cent. After controlling for changes in the characteristics of offenders on the probation caseload, there was an increase in reoffending of 3.12 per cent. compared to the 2007-08 baseline. Data are not available prior to 2007 on this basis.

The number of persons commencing court order supervision by the Probation Service in London was 18,931 in 2005 and 23,787 in 2008.

154,616 civil non-family proceedings were started in the county courts of London Civil and Family HMCS area in 2009, compared to 175,889 in 2005. There were also 15,437 private law applications and 886 public law applications made in the county or High Courts of this HMCS area in 2008-09, compared to 14,540 and 1,207 respectively in 2005-06.

In addition, at a national level:

Local communities are being better engaged in criminal justice—by giving them a say in the types of Community Payback projects offenders carry out and allowing them to see justice being done, for example through the use of high visibility jackets. Offenders have now worked more than 14 million hours, with an estimated value to the taxpayer of over £80 million.

Major constitutional reforms have been delivered, including devolution, the Human Rights Act, Freedom of Information, Lords Reform, and a new Supreme Court for the UK.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Charlie Whelan

Mr. Dunne: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) of 24 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 295W, on Charlie Whelan, what type of pass Mr. Whelan holds; when it was issued; and who the sponsor is of the pass. [325342]

Nick Harvey: Mr. Whelan holds a temporary pass (light blue) issued in June 2009. It is sponsored by the parliamentary Labour party from within an agreed allocation.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings he has had with the BBC in each of the last two years; what the agenda was of each such meeting; who attended each such meeting; if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each such meeting; and if he will make a statement. [325170]

Mr. Bradshaw: Details of meetings with outside groups that I have held since I became Secretary of State on 5 June 2009 are regularly published on my Department's website. I have held the following meetings with representatives of the BBC:

	Reason for meeting
10 June 2009	Digital Britain Report
27 July 2009	Digital Britain Discussion
19 October 2009	Regular update
5 November 2009	Broadcasting in Scotland
8 March 2010	BBC Strategic Review

Notes of meetings with outside groups are not published as a matter of course.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department and its agency have spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324435]

Mr. Bradshaw: Nothing has been spent.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department and its agencies spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what such items were. [324722]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its agency, the Royal Parks, has not spent any money on promotional items carrying the Department's branding logo in the last five years.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) whether his Department has undertaken costings of the policies of the *(a)* Conservative Party and *(b)* Liberal Democrat Party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months; [324247]

(2) whether his Department has undertaken costings of the policies of *(a)* the Conservative Party and *(b)* the Liberal Democrat Party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months. [324401]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary, on 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1913W.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the percentage change was in *(a)* the cost of the television licence fee and *(b)* the number of licence fee payers in each year since 1997. [324384]

Mr. Bradshaw: The percentage increase in the licence fee in each year is set out in the tables.

	Level of colour licence fee (£)	*Percentage increase*
1997	91.50	—
1998	97.50	6.6
1999	101.00	3.6
2000	104.00	3.0
2001	109.00	4.8
2002	112.00	2.8
2003	116.00	3.6
2004	121.00	4.3
2005	126.50	4.5
2006	131.50	4.0
2007	135.50	3.0
2008	139.50	3.0
2009	142.50	2.2
2010	145.50	2.1

	Level of black and white licence fee (£)	*Percentage increase*
1997	30.50	—
1998	32.50	6.6
1999	33.50	3.1
2000	34.50	3.0
2001	36.50	5.8
2002	37.50	2.7
2003	38.50	2.7
2004	40.50	5.2
2005	42.00	3.7
2006	44.00	4.8
2007	45.50	3.4
2008	47.00	3.3
2009	48.00	2.1
2010	49.00	2.1

The percentage increase in licence fee payers each year since 1997 is set out in the table.

	Licence fee payers (excludes free licences to entitled persons introduced autumn 2000)	Percentage increase
1997	21,305,247	—
1998	21,722,714	2.0
1999	22,240,032	2.4
2000	22,625,387	1.7
2001	22,838,887	1.0
2002	23,152,215	1.4
2003	23,485,613	1.4
2004	23,898,749	1.8
2005	24,161,532	1.1
2006	24,418,757	1.1
2007	24,545,516	0.5
2008	24,740,047	0.8
2009	24,877,070	0.6

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes in levels of *(a)* taxation and *(b)* public expenditure will be required to finance the requirement to repay loans made from the public purse to banks, as referred to in the Financial Services Authority's publication Financial Risk Outlook of 10 March 2010. [322682]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* The Financial Risk Outlook discusses liquidity and funding support provided to eligible institutions. Responsibility for repayment of such support lies with the eligible institution itself.

Council Tax

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when officials in his Department became aware that the costs of a council tax freeze referred to on 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 370, were incorrect; on what date it was decided to place a correction on his Department's website; and what the effect of a two-year freeze on council tax would be on expenditure in council tax benefit. [323165]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 March 2010]:* The estimates referred to on 3 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 370, are the cost to central Government of providing every council in England with top up funding to compensate for freezing council tax for two years. This costing considered only the direct costs of providing a top-up, assumed to be equivalent to a 2.5 per cent. increase in band D bills in England.

The Treasury's website was updated on 22 February 2010 to make clear that the costing, which was originally placed on the Treasury's website on 24 December 2009 related to the cost to central Government of compensating local authorities.

The impact on council tax benefit of a two-year freeze on council tax has not been estimated.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 Programme Board minutes of 21 September 2004, paragraph 3.3, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Data Enhancement Questionnaire policy approved by the Minister. [324172]

Ian Pearson: The then Minister approved the use of the Data Enhancement Questionnaire, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Croydon

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Croydon Central constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 2005. [325586]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at Parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 Census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

The Government have put in place a broad programme of reform since 1997. Over the decade to 2007, the economic performance of all parts of the UK has improved considerably. In Croydon Central, the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance reached its lowest level on record in November 2007.

The global recession has had a negative impact on economic activity in all areas of the UK. However, the economy was starting from a position of strength and is actively supported by policies implemented by the Government, including the fiscal stimulus and a significant package of support for those out of work.

In Croydon Central people are benefiting from this investment. Having risen through the first half of last year, the claimant count has remained broadly flat since the middle of 2009, with more than 700 people moving off of the claimant count each month on average over the period. Youth unemployment has also started to decline and now stands more than 10 per cent. below the highs seen in the third quarter of 2009.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many smoking shelters have been built for his Department's staff in the last five years; and at what cost. [324356]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is given in the following table.

HM Treasury spend on smoking shelters, 2005-09

£000

	London	Norwich
2005	—	—
2006	—	—
2007	—	—
2008	—	0.8

HM Treasury spend on smoking shelters, 2005-09

		£000
	London	*Norwich*
2009	—	—

[1] Cost of moving existing shelter in order to comply with changes in legislation.

Departmental Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account his Department's food procurement policy takes of animal welfare. [325525]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Torbay (Mr. Sanders) on 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 189W.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(c)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(d)* his Department's other agencies (i) have the status of embedded communicators and (ii) are members of the Government Communications Network but are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [315169]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury and the Valuation Office Agency have no embedded communicators. HM Revenue and Customs has 304 embedded communicators. Of HM Treasury's agencies, the Office of Government Commerce has six embedded communicators and the Debt Management Office has none.

Data are not held on Government Communications Network membership.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months. [320395]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The normal class of travel for staff in HM Treasury and its agencies is standard class. However, where there is a business or other justification, first class travel is available to staff at all levels but the reason must be included when seeking reimbursement. Information on the class of tickets purchased and the grade of the user is not held, because HM Treasury's accounting system records the costs of travel but not the number, type of tickets bought or traveller's grade. However, for financial year 2008-09, the travel management company provided information on the number and type of tickets purchased through them.

HM Treasury spent £382,000 on air travel and £18,000 on rail travel, the Debt Management Office £3,000 on rail travel and Office of Government Commerce £319,000 on rail travel. Tickets bought but subsequently refunded are excluded and some tickets are bought directly by the traveller, so this information is not a complete record of all tickets bought.

Since 1999, the Government have published, on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code".

Early Intervention

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made on development of financial mechanisms to support early intervention policies across the Government in the long-term. [325694]

Mr. Byrne: The Budget announced the Government's support for the first social impact bond (SIB) pilots to help investment in long-term initiatives and support preventative action—including an MOJ pilot to reduce reoffending rates in HMP Peterborough.

The Government will explore further application of this model through the Total Place programme and more widely. The DCSF, for example, have recently pledged to explore the potential of SIBs to lever in additional resources to support early intervention approaches with children and young people.

Financial Services: Advisory Services

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish the full evaluation of the Money Guidance Pathfinder. [325792]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The full evaluation report on the Money Guidance pathfinder, conducted by the Personal Finance Research Centre at the University of Bristol, will be published by June 2010.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people took part in the Money Guidance Pathfinder. [325793]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In total, 575,000 people used the Money Guidance service in the North West and North East of England between April 2009 and March 2010.

Green Investment Bank

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable he has set for the launch of the Green Investment Bank announced in Budget 2010. [325811]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Government anticipate that the Green Investment Bank could be operational by autumn 2011, and this timing accords with that of the projected need for investment. Further details are provided in Chapter 2, paragraph 2.23 of Infrastructure UK's Strategy for national infrastructure, which was published alongside the Budget.

Import Duties: Mephedrone

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been collected in import duty on mephedrone in each of the last three years. [325798]

Mr. Timms: Mephedrone is listed as a Home Office controlled drug. Import consignments of mephedrone will have been entered under commodity codes 293299 85 90 (prior to 1 January 2009) and 293299 00 90 (from 1 January 2009).

The information requested is set out in the following table. Imported mephedrone attracts an import duty rate of 6.5 per cent.

	Import duty collected on consignments of mephedrone (£)
2007	174,900.06
2008	158,546.69
2009	250,857.43

Investment Income

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* total monetary value of and *(b)* proportion of net investment income in the UK balance of payments has been in each year since 2006. [325711]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Official estimates of the current account, including net investment income are available from the Office for National Statistics.

The information requested is as follows:

	Net investment income	
	£ billion	*Percentage of current account flows*
2006	9.6	15.2
2007	20.1	26.2
2008	30.2	36.7
2009	28.7	37.8

Investment Returns

Roger Berry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Financial Services Authority has made of the monetary value of losses incurred by with-profits bond investors who were entitled to claim the guaranteed value of their investments on a market value reduction-free date but failed to do so. [325656]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The FSA does not hold the information requested.

It is a matter for individual policyholders when they decide to cash in their with-profits bond investments. However, where life insurance companies sell policies which include guarantees for market value reduction-free (MVR-free) encashment, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) requires them to treat their policyholders fairly by informing them of the existence of such guarantees at the point of sale and reminding them of those guarantees in post-sale communications. In addition, FSA rules require firms not to make an MVR unless the market value of the assets in the fund is, or is expected to be, significantly less than the face value of the policy being surrendered.

Keydata Investment Services

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on its regulation of Keydata; and if he will make a statement. [325830]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. George Osborne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the level of unemployment in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* each region of England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland of the planned rise in the rate of National Insurance contributions. [325758]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 22 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 71W, to the hon. Member for Solihull (Lorely Burt). The effect is expected to be the same across the UK.

Mr. George Osborne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect on small businesses of the planned rise in the rate of national insurance contributions. [325759]

Mr. Timms: The national insurance contribution changes have been designed so that the impact is balanced fairly between individuals and employers, and between businesses of different sizes. The increase in national insurance contributions in 2011 represents only a small proportion of total business costs. Therefore, in the climate of stronger economic growth forecast by the Treasury and independent commentators in 2011 and beyond, the Government expect the rise in national insurance contributions to be an affordable contribution to fiscal consolidation.

This rise should also be seen in the context of the significant support available for businesses, including small businesses. Budget 2010 announced further measures, including an increase in the annual investment allowance, an extension of entrepreneurs' relief and a temporary increase in the level of small business rate relief.

Mr. George Osborne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's impact assessment on the planned rise in the rate of National Insurance contributions announced in the pre-Budget report in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [325780]

Mr. Timms: An impact assessment, if necessary, will be published alongside the Bill which will introduce these changes. Impact assessments are not required where there are no associated administrative costs.

Revenue and Customs: Visits Abroad

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff at HM Revenue and Customs have visited *(a)* Barbados, *(b)* Vanuatu, *(c)* St. Lucia, *(d)* Spain, *(e)* Turkey, *(f)* Venezuela, *(g)* New Zealand, *(h)* Australia, *(i)* Spain, *(j)* Cyprus, *(k)* Jamaica, *(l)* Malta, *(m)* Sri Lanka, *(n)* China, *(o)* Japan and *(p)* the United Arab Emirates on official business in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of visits to each destination. [324344]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) staff may travel overseas where it is necessary to deliver the Department's objectives, including on fiscal fraud enforcement, enforcement of prohibition and restrictions, and the provision of mutual administrative assistance.

Information disaggregated by country is not available, as publication of this information could compromise and prejudice the Department's compliance work.

Aggregated information from HMRC's central travel contract on the number of HMRC staff who travelled to any of the countries in question, and the overall cost of air travel and hotel accommodation is set out in the following table.

	Number of staff	*Cost (£)*
2007-08	250	244,834
2008-09	282	392,829
April 2009 to December 2009	158	165,664

Information on other travel costs and expenses incurred by HMRC staff while abroad is only available at disproportionate cost.

On occasion, for operational reasons, HMRC staff may book their travel through means other than the Department's travel contract. For example, this may be due to the need to travel at short notice, with colleagues from other organisations or to take advantage of special deals for cheaper flight tickets available elsewhere. Information on the number of staff who travelled to the destinations in question having booked travel in this way, and the expenditure incurred in doing so, is available only at disproportionate cost.

Royal Bank of Scotland: Liverpool Football Club

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the loans made by Royal Bank of Scotland to Liverpool Football Club are guaranteed under the Government's asset protection guarantee scheme. [325748]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Royal Bank of Scotland is a participant in the Asset Protection Scheme. The Government will not disclose any information on individual assets covered by the scheme because this information is received via the Financial Services Authority and relates to the business affairs of individual customers and counterparties. Disclosure of such information is restricted by domestic and European law, and there are no provisions which would permit disclosure in this case. Such information may also be considered commercially sensitive.

Taxation: Domicile

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people paid the £30,000 remittance basis charge in the 2008-09 tax year; how many people claimed to be non-domiciled in the UK in 2008-09 tax returns; and how many such people were resident in the UK. [320748]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 10 March 2010]:* Based on an initial analysis of the Self Assessment returns received to date, HMRC estimate that around 4,600 individuals paid the remittance basis charge of £30,000 for the 2008-09 tax year. The same data also indicate that around 103,000 individuals claimed non-domicile status for 2008-09, of whom 74,000 were resident in the UK. However, these figures may need to be revised in the light of later tax returns.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1264W, on Valuation Office Agency (VOA), what data the VOA has *(a)* requested and *(b)* received from the National Register of Social Housing; and on what statutory basis the VOA obtained access. [324317]

Ian Pearson: Only a list of addresses of properties on the National Register of Social Housing was requested and received by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). This information was received on 2 March 2005 and was a snapshot of the addresses of properties on the National Register at that time. The list of addresses was provided voluntarily to assist the VOA in its preparations for the now postponed Council Tax Revaluation in England. No further information has subsequently been requested or received. The VOA does not have, and has never had, access to the full National Register of Social Housing, nor is there a statutory gateway giving such access.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Abuse: Parents

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department has taken to reduce the incidence of abuse of parents by children under the age of 18 years. [325449]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 6 April 2010]:* Such cases would be captured within the Government's definition of domestic violence. The commitment in our strategy: "Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls" to include gender equality and violence against women in the national curriculum will help to educate young people that violence is unacceptable in any relationship.

Arrest Warrants: Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* European arrest warrants and *(b)* other arrest warrants were issued in the UK in respect of people suspected of human trafficking offences between 1 April 2009 and 31 January 2010. [325183]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* It is not possible to disaggregate the number of warrants by offence type.

Asylum

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum under consideration by the UK Border Agency were received before the introduction of his Department's new asylum model. [325785]

Mr. Woolas: The Agency is unable to accurately report on the outstanding asylum cases being dealt with by the Case Resolution Directorate (CRD). As reported in February 2010 to the Home Affairs Select Committee, 52 per cent. of the concluded cases were data errors and required no further action. Therefore, any such report would be unable to accurately represent CRD cases with outstanding applications.

Crime: Children

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken into (i) child victims of crime and (ii) child criminals in each of the last five years. [319777]

Alan Johnson: For the purposes of this reply we have considered any Home Office research looking specifically or primarily at children (those aged under 18) as perpetrators or victims of crime, where the research was undertaken in 2005 or later. A number of Home Office research projects may include some information on young people as victims or offenders as part of a more general research study: these are not covered in this reply.

(i) Child victims of crime

Since 2005 the Home Office has commissioned or undertaken the following research in respect of child victims:

BMRB (British Market Research Bureau) were commissioned to extend the British Crime Survey (BCS) to include a representative sample of children aged 10 to 15 as part of the BCS 2010-11 fieldwork contract. The BCS was extended from January 2009 with the objective of providing estimates of victimisation among those aged 10 to 15 and better understanding children's experiences of victimisation and key crime related issues in England and Wales.

The Home Office reported in 2009 on the key trends in monitoring Phase 1 of the Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP) aimed at reducing the carrying of knives and serious stabbings among teenagers (13 to 19-year-olds) in 10 police force areas. The report is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr18c.pdf

The Home Office commissioned a process evaluation in March 2009 to look at the implementation of the Child Sex Offender Review public disclosure. The final report was published in March 2010.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/horr32c.pdf

(ii) Child criminals

Since 2005 the Home Office has commissioned or undertaken the following research in respect of child offenders:

The Home Office was responsible for carrying out the Offending Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS) since 2003. The survey has completed four annual sweeps (2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006). The main aim of the survey is to gather information on young people's attitudes towards and experiences of offending in England and Wales (particularly those aged from 10 to 25). The OCJS also collects information about young people's victimisation experiences. Results from the 2005 and 2006 OCJS surveys are available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1706.pdf

and

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0908.pdf

In November 2009 longitudinal analysis of those who took part in all four years of the OCJS was published and is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr19c.pdf

The Home Office commissioned the Juvenile Cohort Study in 2007. It was designed to provide evidence about which interventions are associated with reductions in re-offending for young offenders with different characteristics. Since the machinery of government changes (May 2007), this work is now owned and being taken forward by the Ministry of Justice.

The Home Office commissioned an evaluation of the Drug Intervention Programme pilots for children and young people. The report was published in 2007.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/rdsolr0707.pdf

In 2009 the Home Office commissioned a process evaluation of the implementation of the Youth Crime Action Plan. This study is ongoing.

Crime: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* car thefts, *(b)* burglaries and *(c)* violent crimes have been reported in North Shropshire in each year since 1997. [325414]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The requested information is given in the tables.

Figures at Community Safety Partnership (CSP) level, formerly Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), are available from 1999-2000 onwards. CSPs arose from the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after this date are not directly comparable.

Police recorded crime statistics are affected by changes in reporting and recording practice, and can be influenced by police priorities and activity.

All of these factors need to be considered when looking at the trends in recorded crime. The Audit Commission undertook substantial audit work on crime recording in the years following the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002 (up until 2006-07) this indicating a generally increasing level of NCRS compliance across forces in this period.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in the North Shropshire Community Safety Partnership area—1999-2000 to 2001-02[1]

Number of offences

Offence	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Violence against the person	491	436	738
Burglary in a dwelling	222	217	180
Other burglary	*	*	*
Theft of motor vehicle	166	148	111

"*" = Not available.

[1] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police in the North Shropshire Community Safety Partnership area—2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

Number of offences

Offence	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Violence against the person	881	886	705	567	649	612	484
Burglary in a dwelling	183	159	128	117	108	100	137
Other burglary	574	453	392	397	329	412	360
Theft of motor vehicle	129	98	104	79	84	78	78

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Crimes of Violence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* murders and *(b)* sexual offences recorded in (i) each police force area and (ii) England and Wales, in each year since 1998 remain unsolved. [317568]

Alan Johnson: The available information is given in the form of tables showing undetected crime in each financial year from 1998-99 to 2008-09. Tables 1 and 2 show the numbers for undetected homicides; tables 3 and 4 those for undetected sexual offences. As offences detected in the current year may initially have been recorded in an earlier year it is not possible to determine the numbers of undetected crime in a particular year.

It should be noted that non-sanction detections, which contribute to the overall detection rates, have fallen in recent years. This reflects a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections where no further action is taken. This will have had an impact on the number of crimes which remain undetected.

Table 1: Undetected homicides by police force area—1998/99 to 2001/02

Undetected

	1998-99	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Avon and Somerset	2	2	-3	6
Bedfordshire	-1	-2	3	0
Cambridgeshire	-2	0	-1	4
Cheshire	1	0	0	-1
Cleveland	0	1	-2	1
Cumbria	0	1	2	1
Derbyshire	0	2	1	-2
Devon and Cornwall	1	0	2	-1
Dorset	2	-3	0	5
Durham	0	-2	-1	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	1	-1	0
Essex	4	3	2	4
Gloucestershire	2	1	1	3
Greater Manchester	-8	6	5	6
Gwent	0	0	1	-1
Hampshire	-1	0	3	3
Hertfordshire	0	0	2	-1
Humberside	4	0	4	5
Kent	-1	3	2	4
Lancashire	0	1	1	-1
Leicestershire	-2	0	2	0
Lincolnshire	2	1	2	-1
London, City of	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	-2	7	13
Metropolitan Police	20	45	19	55
Norfolk	2	-2	2	3
Northamptonshire	1	0	0	1
Northumbria	-1	0	3	1
North Wales	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	1	0	0
Nottinghamshire	3	0	4	1
South Wales	1	4	0	-6
South Yorkshire	1	1	-1	6
Staffordshire	4	2	3	-3
Suffolk	0	1	-3	0
Surrey	1	1	7	-3
Sussex	4	-1	5	5
Thames Valley	3	4	4	-1
Warwickshire	0	-1	0	0
West Mercia	-2	1	1	0
West Midlands	0	3	8	8
West Yorkshire	-1	0	-1	8
Wiltshire	0	1	1	-1
England and Wales	39	73	84	123

Note:
Offences detected in any given year may have been previously recorded in an earlier year. When offences detected in the year exceed the number recorded a negative value is shown.

Table 2: Undetected homicides by police force area—2002-03 to 2008-09

Undetected

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	5	1	4	1	2	1	1
Bedfordshire	-1	0	-1	3	-4	-2	1
British Transport Police	-1	43	-3	2	0	1	2
Cambridgeshire	-2	1	1	2	0	1	2
Cheshire	0	2	1	2	-2	-2	2
Cleveland	2	-1	1	-3	1	0	1
Cumbria	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	2	0	-3	0	2	0	1
Devon and Cornwall	4	0	0	1	6	5	-1
Dorset	0	0	2	-1	3	-1	0
Durham	-2	1	0	0	2	1	-1
Dyfed-Powys	1	0	1	-1	0	1	-1
Essex	6	3	0	9	-3	2	-1
Gloucestershire	2	1	2	1	0	2	-1
Greater Manchester	7	2	15	0	7	6	8

Table 2: Undetected homicides by police force area—2002-03 to 2008-09

	Undetected						
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Gwent	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Hampshire	9	3	4	0	5	2	0
Hertfordshire	1	4	-1	4	-2	1	-1
Humberside	1	5	-32	1	0	1	0
Kent	-1	-1	2	1	1	3	0
Lancashire	4	19	-20	-1	0	0	3
Leicestershire	2	2	2	1	4	-2	1
Lincolnshire	-3	2	0	0	1	6	4
London, City of	0	0	0	0	1	-1	0
Merseyside	11	9	12	-2	2	3	2
Metropolitan Police	37	6	16	16	27	18	14
Norfolk	2	0	-1	4	-2	1	2
Northamptonshire	1	0	1	0	2	0	1
Northumbria	-1	2	-1	2	0	3	-2
North Wales	7	-5	1	1	0	1	-3
North Yorkshire	-2	2	-3	0	1	-1	0
Nottinghamshire	4	-1	1	-3	3	-3	2
South Wales	-4	3	-2	5	2	-1	1
South Yorkshire	1	0	0	0	3	2	0
Staffordshire	5	0	-2	1	2	1	0
Suffolk	2	0	1	4	2	1	0
Surrey	6	2	3	1	-1	1	-1
Sussex	5	2	5	0	0	4	-1
Thames Valley	7	5	-3	7	1	2	-4
Warwickshire	1	1	-1	4	0	-1	-1
West Mercia	0	3	2	-2	1	3	4
West Midlands	15	0	-4	8	-3	6	5
West Yorkshire	-3	19	2	3	4	2	5
Wiltshire	0	1	1	0	1	1	-1
England and Wales	130	137	6	71	69	69	44

Note:
Offences detected in any given year may have been previously recorded in an earlier year. When offences detected in the year exceed the number recorded a negative value is shown.

Table 3: Undetected sexual offences by police force area—1998-99 to 2001-02

	Undetected			
	1998-99	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Avon and Somerset	394	441	673	915
Bedfordshire	260	279	250	269
Cambridgeshire	241	232	278	378
Cheshire	106	76	90	113
Cleveland	104	93	95	87
Cumbria	35	37	30	49
Derbyshire	299	405	482	430
Devon and Cornwall	236	162	229	484
Dorset	213	225	253	316
Durham	82	49	58	181
Dyfed-Powys	28	23	21	28
Essex	695	620	711	721
Gloucestershire	172	176	189	165
Greater Manchester	1,242	1,354	1,340	1,599
Gwent	132	97	55	56
Hampshire	189	663	794	822
Hertfordshire	170	181	289	207
Humberside	501	569	516	651
Kent	499	486	674	702
Lancashire	455	385	531	691
Leicestershire	414	471	437	526
Lincolnshire	129	116	123	225
London, City of	20	16	9	16
Merseyside	335	423	467	657
Metropolitan Police	6,447	7,911	7,566	8,057
Norfolk	168	196	216	281
Northamptonshire	153	97	81	165
Northumbria	531	607	553	649
North Wales	75	72	169	262
North Yorkshire	65	118	125	145
Nottinghamshire	603	675	740	875
South Wales	143	142	145	154
South Yorkshire	223	214	229	253
Staffordshire	372	735	803	815
Suffolk	166	216	251	319
Surrey	80	376	511	446
Sussex	564	697	818	783
Thames Valley	680	824	862	857
Warwickshire	76	108	118	115
West Mercia	206	256	248	469
West Midlands	915	1099	1331	1518
West Yorkshire	690	596	606	751
Wiltshire	114	165	256	220
England and Wales	19,222	22,683	24,186	27,422

Note:
The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 4: Undetected sexual offences by police force area—2002/03 to 2008/09

	Undetected						
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	1,306	1,386	1,531	1,113	1,292	1,115	1,095
Bedfordshire	362	437	392	493	350	280	348
British Transport Police	656	795	876	671	700	534	547
Cambridgeshire	540	624	560	572	544	561	523
Cheshire	386	533	585	649	589	484	433
Cleveland	221	409	444	434	397	330	315
Cumbria	89	163	200	179	169	211	192
Derbyshire	716	700	758	754	752	745	702
Devon and Cornwall	813	1,047	1,095	1,085	1,040	1,033	992
Dorset	448	542	500	560	472	579	543
Durham	237	129	170	453	265	285	260
Dyfed-Powys	31	261	289	256	250	208	184
Essex	1,023	1,136	884	973	777	815	846
Gloucestershire	338	322	364	465	470	426	377
Greater Manchester	1,844	2,330	2,430	2,184	2,052	2,048	1,963
Gwent	153	130	248	294	335	430	375
Hampshire	1,078	1,606	1,846	1,951	1,975	1,699	1,634
Hertfordshire	401	435	563	565	612	523	438
Humberside	857	1,136	1,072	943	928	676	665
Kent	857	1,046	1,308	1,334	1260	1,140	935
Lancashire	579	1,014	983	874	830	817	684
Leicestershire	745	768	1,006	948	915	931	856
Lincolnshire	482	501	504	441	455	424	426
London, City of	20	24	34	30	32	37	17
Merseyside	834	946	873	912	666	620	497
Metropolitan Police	8,343	7,800	7,193	6,725	6,717	6,288	5,976
Norfolk	503	533	588	573	483	447	359
Northamptonshire	362	300	345	395	348	449	409
Northumbria	943	990	1,018	825	735	657	582
North Wales	465	404	411	388	395	408	402
North Yorkshire	248	309	304	335	332	372	348
Nottinghamshire	731	805	731	759	778	807	870
South Wales	377	429	528	707	610	622	607
South Yorkshire	524	540	890	1,043	878	782	563
Staffordshire	757	766	836	865	794	701	782
Suffolk	363	490	400	407	435	473	489
Surrey	429	468	549	492	397	439	618
Sussex	889	939	1,331	1,119	1,128	960	1,034
Thames Valley	1,398	1,500	1,517	1,456	1,680	1,580	1,617
Warwickshire	188	292	268	242	300	265	269
West Mercia	601	672	706	576	609	740	720
West Midlands	1,849	2,137	2,434	2,325	2,329	2,140	1,786
West Yorkshire	1,280	1,832	1,652	1,822	1,662	1,589	1,532
Wiltshire	455	404	345	351	419	404	343
England and Wales	35,721	40,030	41,561	40,538	39,156	37,074	35,153

Note:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Croydon

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Croydon Central constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 2005. [325590]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324974]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has adjusted the transformers in its headquarters in 2 Marsham street to tap down the voltage levels thereby reducing energy consumption. The Border Agency building Vulcan house in Sheffield has highly efficient inductive lighting and inductive motor loads so voltage optimisation would be of little or no value.

The Home Office, working with the Carbon Trust, has also identified several potential sites to install voltage optimisation technology on the Home Office estate

(including its Executive agencies). Work on fitting voltage optimisation technology in a UKBA building in Hayes has commenced.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 937-8W, on departmental telephone services, whether contracts were let for the provision of services relating to the helplines run by its agencies. [324118]

Mr. Woolas: With reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 937-8W, on departmental telephone services, the answer as to whether executive agencies of the Home Department let contracts for the provision of services relating to the helplines is as follows:

(a) following procurement competition the operation of the Identity and Passport Service's helplines are contracted to Teleperformance;

(b) the Criminal Records Bureau's helplines are operated as part of the services provided under its contract with Capita Business Services Ltd/ for disclosure processing; and

(c) the United Kingdom Border Agency has not let contracts for the provision of services relating to helplines.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on translation services by his Department in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [324419]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 March 2010]:* Translation services specific to Ribble Valley, Lancashire and England can be extracted only at disproportionate cost from the overall Home Office expenditure data provided in the background to the question.

Domestic Violence: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to reduce the level of domestic violence in North Shropshire. [325420]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan sets out the Government's framework to support victims and manage perpetrators. Key initiatives identified in this Plan are being taken forward in North Shropshire to reduce the incidents of domestic violence, these include;

A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which covers the whole of Shropshire and focuses on high risk victims;

an Independent domestic violence adviser to support the cases identified at the MARAC, providing protection and support and helping to reduce repeat incidents of domestic violence;

a specialist domestic violence court located in Shrewsbury;

and a dedicated domestic violence forum which also provides practical support to victims such as mobile phones and home safety packs.

Drugs: Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Ion Track drug detection devices are possessed by each police force in England and Wales. [321257]

Alan Johnson: The Home Office allocates funding to the police authority and it is for the chief constables and police authorities to determine their spending on different types of policing activity. It is therefore not possible to provide the data in the format requested.

There are two main manufacturers of devices using the ion mobility spectrometry technology to detect either drugs or explosive traces. One of these was known as Ion Track prior to 2003.

According to the Department's records, in excess of 150 devices using the ion mobility spectrometry technology have been supplied to police authorities in England and Wales since 2003. Some are used for drugs detection and others for explosive detection.

Drugs: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated street value is of drugs seized by police in North Shropshire in each year since 1997. [325419]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not held centrally.

Illegal Immigrants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants have been found *(a)* in total and *(b)* at each of the main ports of entry to the United Kingdom in each year since 1997. [317764]

Alan Johnson: It is Government policy to publish border force management information at a regional level, as location specific information could provide value to those seeking to circumvent our controls.

The following table provides the number of illegal entrants detected by border force officers in the south and north regions between 2003 and 2009. These figures do not include the number of illegal immigrant's encountered in-country, and do not include those encountered at the juxtaposed borders in France and Belgium.

	Region		
	South	*North*	*Total*
2009	303	23	326
2008	455	45	500
2007	487	47	534
2006	393	28	421
2005	312	7	319
2004	241	—	241
2003	70	—	70

Prisons: Organised Crime

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what information police forces have on the extent of organised crime within prisons; [325662]

(2) how many police investigations are under way into organised crime within Prison Service establishments in England and Wales. [325665]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not collected centrally. Some organised criminals may seek to continue their activities following prosecution, conviction, and imprisonment and the National Offender Management Service is working closely with the law enforcement agencies in order to identify such activities and to take appropriate action to prevent them.

Sweet Concepts

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 156W, on Central Office of Information: marketing, what promotional products were purchased from Sweet Concepts Ltd. on behalf of *(a)* the Police Information Technology Organisation and *(b)* the Home Office; and at what cost in each case. [324407]

Mr. Hanson: The promotional products purchased from Sweet Concepts Ltd on behalf of *(a)* the Police Information Technology Organisation and (b) the Home Office, and the cost in each case are as follows:

	Body	*Promotional Product*	*Cost (£)*
October 2006	HO, Office of Criminal Justice Reform (now part of MoJ)	450 boxes of fortune cookies containing clues for distribution by 42 Local Criminal Justice Boards in community engagement events. These encourage the public to access a web interactive game employed in OCJR's Inside Justice Week campaign	11,003
May 2007	UKBA	2,500 mint cards for e-Borders branding campaign	1,150
April 2009	National Policing Improvement Agency formerly PITO	2,500 tins of mints for distribution at different events	1,150

War Crimes

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are plans to establish a specialist war crimes unit in the Metropolitan police. [325660]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 6 April 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1287-288W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colombia: Human Rights

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request that the Colombian authorities provide an explanation for the variation in the figures provided by different Colombian state organisations on the number of bodies in the mass grave recently discovered in La Macarena; and if he will discuss that matter with *(a)* his counterparts and *(b)* human rights organisations. [325562]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 25 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 425W to the hon. Member for East Dunbartonshire (Jo Swinson) and can inform him that since then our ambassador has written a follow up letter to Carlos Franco, Director of the Presidential Human Rights Programme, requesting an update into the investigation and asking for an explanation of the difference between the Procurador General's findings and those of the Human Rights Programme.

(a) Our embassy in Bogota and our representation at the EU in Brussels have constant contact with other EU member states on Human Rights issues in Colombia.

(b) As stated in my answer of 25 March I met human rights activist Carolina Hoyos on 16 March where we discussed the mass graves in La Macarena. We work closely with non-governmental organisations and human rights defenders in Colombia.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the British embassy in Bogota has informed him of any steps taken by the Colombian authorities to ensure that physical evidence located at the mass grave recently discovered in La Macarena is protected pending an investigation by the government of Colombia or the International Criminal Court; and if he will make a statement. [325574]

Chris Bryant: We received assurances in Carlos Franco's letter of 16 February that the Colombian Government has instructed the police to adopt special security measures around the site of the mass grave.

We trust that the Colombian Government will conduct a thorough investigation.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request information from the Colombian authorities on the number of bodies recently found in a mass grave in La Macarena which are subject to an individual investigation; and if he will discuss that matter with his EU counterparts. [325575]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 25 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 425W to the hon. Member for East Dunbartonshire (Jo Swinson) and can inform him that since then our ambassador has written a follow up letter to Carlos Franco, Director of the Presidential Human Rights Programme, requesting an update into the investigation and asking for an explanation of the difference between the Procurador General's findings and those of the Human Rights Programme.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will *(a)* help facilitate and *(b)* participate in a human rights fact-finding mission to the recently discovered mass grave in La Macarena. [325576]

Chris Bryant: Our embassy in Bogota is currently looking at logistical arrangements for a possible fact finding visit to the site.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take immediate steps to cease all co-operation with the Colombian Army until *(a)* the Colombian authorities have provided him with a satisfactory explanation for the alleged presence of approximately 2,000 unidentified bodies in a mass grave in La Macarena and *(b)* a thorough investigation has been carried out; and if he will discuss that matter with his EU counterparts. [325577]

Chris Bryant: No, but we will continue to raise these matters directly with the Colombian Government.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the status of the legal investigation into the presence of a mass grave in La Macarena; and whether he has received reports of a forensic search of those graves being conducted on behalf of any international organisation. [325578]

Chris Bryant: We are awaiting responses from the Director of the Presidential Human Rights Programme and the Office of the Procurator General. Given the complex nature of DNA and forensic investigations we do not expect further updates for a number of weeks.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the merits of offering the government of Colombia assistance for a forensic investigation of the mass grave recently found in La Macarena. [325579]

Chris Bryant: No request has been received from the Colombian Government for assistance on the investigation but we would consider the merits of any such request, including financial viability.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will *(a)* obtain and *(b)* place in the Library a copy of the report of the Colombian Procurator General's office on the 2,000 bodies allegedly found in the recently discovered mass grave in La Macarena; and if he will discuss the matter with (i) his EU counterparts and (ii) human rights organisations. [325580]

Chris Bryant: Our embassy will liaise with the Procurador General's office, and if and when an official report is made public, we will provide a copy to the Library of the House. We have contacted the Procurador General's office who has informed us that the investigation is still at the preliminary verification stage and that they are currently building up an historic memory. As developments into the investigation proceed our embassy will regularly liaise with EU member states and human rights organisations, as part of our constant contact with these groups.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports on the activities of units of the Colombian Army which operate in and around the southern Colombian municipality of La Macarena in the province of Meta; and whether he has received representations on alleged human rights abuses by those military units. [325581]

Chris Bryant: We have received no reports or representations on battalions operating in the La Macarena area. However, the organisation DHBAJOARIARI follows up on cases which are allegedly committed by the state and includes issues such as forced disappearances, extra-judicial killings. The organisation has not directly lobbied us on any individual incidents.

SCOTLAND

Employment

11. **John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on measures to promote employment in Scotland. [325097]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have regular discussions on employment in Scotland including about the Future Jobs Fund in Scotland.

Employment: Glasgow

12. **John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had on levels of employment in Glasgow. [325098]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In January I set up a taskforce to look at the problems of worklessness in Glasgow. I received the final report on 25 March which I discussed with the chair of the taskforce, Professor Pamela Gillies, Principal of Glasgow Caledonian university. I have had a number of discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions about the work of the taskforce.

Anti-Slavery Day Bill

13. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 961W, if he will seek the consent of the Scottish Parliament to extending the provisions of the Anti-Slavery Day Bill to Scotland. [325099]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office plays a vital role in working with the Scottish Government to ensure that where a Bill at Westminster covers areas of devolved policy the appropriate consent is secured. However, ultimately it is the Scottish Government that must agree to seek consent from the Scottish Parliament to extend the provisions of a particular Bill. My officials kept Scottish Government officials fully informed of progress of the Anti-Slavery Day Bill, but we were advised that

the Scottish Government did not wish to bring forward a Legislative Consent Motion for this Private Members' Bill at this time.

Economic Growth

14. **Mr. Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on measures to increase the rate of growth of the Scottish economy. [325100]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have had numerous discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a range of issues affecting Scotland, most especially around ensuring we do everything possible to help Scotland through the most severe global downturn in 60 years. The Scottish economy has benefited from the UK Government's fiscal stimulus, and will benefit from a range of measures designed to drive the economy to a sustained recovery.

Scottish Consolidation Fund

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the method for determining the level of grant to be allocated to the Scottish Consolidated Fund in 2010-11. [325095]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have regular discussions with the Chancellor on a range of issues.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Oldham

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has given an undertaking to write off the sum provided to Oldham council to achieve the Decent Homes Standard in the event that it is successful in its stock transfer initiative. [325800]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer my right hon. Friend the answer I gave him on 25 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 542W.

Croydon

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will set out with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to the Croydon Central constituency, the effects of his Department's policies on the constituency since 2005. [325821]

Barbara Follett: This Department does not routinely collect information at constituency level but, as the constituency of Croydon, Central, falls within the local authority of Croydon we have, where relevant included information from them in this answer.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service provides a wide range of statistical information at parliamentary constituency level, taken from the 2001 census and other sources. This service is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

Communities and Local Government statistical publications can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/

This includes time series data across the Department's remit at various geographic levels.

Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our Research Database (RD) at:

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

This includes evaluations of key policies.

Over the last year, Communities and Local Government has:

Played a critical role responding to the recession ensuring people, business and communities receive the practical help they need, including: helping people avoid repossession; Real Help Now; supporting the construction industry, critical regeneration projects, jobs through Future Jobs Fund; and businesses with the business rates deferral scheme.

Set in place a platform for greater local devolution for more effective decision making through local area agreements (LAAs)—including slashing central performance standards from over 1,200 to fewer than 200.

Continued building on this through Total Place pilots, leading innovation across public services—cutting out waste, overlap and duplication, meaning more and better quality services at less cost to the taxpayer.

Established the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) set out in the Planning Act 2008—which will make the major infrastructure planning decisions for the country, delivering a faster, fairer and more transparent planning regime.

Announced the £1.5 billion Housing Pledge to deliver an additional 20,000 units of affordable housing, creating 45,000 jobs in the construction industry over this year and next, including 1,300 new apprenticeship schemes.

Last year there were 600 additional affordable homes provided by Croydon local authority. See link for further information:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1406085.xls

During the period since 2005, the Department's achievements include:

Working with local housing authorities to reduce the number of people accepted as owed a main homelessness duty by 43 per cent. since 2005-06, and 72 per cent. since the peak in 2003—the lowest level since the late seventies—through greater emphasis on the prevention of homelessness.

In 2008-09, there were 449 households accepted as being homeless and in priority need in Croydon local authority compared to 581 households accepted as being homeless and in priority need in 2005-06. See link for further information:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141476.xls

Launching the Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' which set out a new stage of public sector reform, significantly strengthening leadership and devolving power to local government as well as providing a major expansion of opportunities for local people to influence local decision-making and improve their lives.

Helping reduce accidental fire-related deaths—the lowest level since 1959.

In 2008-09, there were 30 accidental fire related deaths in Greater London, compared to 47 accidental fire relate deaths in 2005/06. At the local level, fire deaths may fluctuate within a general declining national trend. See link for further information (Table 4b):

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1403049.xls

Reducing by 1.2 million the number of non-decent social homes As at the 1st April 2009, there were 1,088 non-decent dwellings in Croydon local authority, compared to 2,463 non-decent dwellings at 1 April 2006 See links for further information:

2008-09 data

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1393612.xls

2005-06 data

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/153226.xls

Investing through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund £1.87 billion for England's 88 most deprived local authorities—leading to real positive change.

Departmental Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account his Department's food procurement policy takes of animal welfare. [325533]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government's (CLG) catering contract specifies that the provider shall take account of and support the Department in fulfilling the objectives of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) guidance for Public Sector Food Procurement Initiatives. The initiative aims to deliver a world class sustainable farming and food sector, including the consideration of animal health and welfare, and provides data on domestically produced food used by, and supplied to Government Departments.

CLG reports to DEFRA on procurement of food, catering services and catering equipment, indicating the proportion of UK produced supplied from farm assured, organic, Fairtrade and seasonal produce.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people his Department employs to maintain its social media and networking sites; and at what cost in the last 12 months. [325593]

Barbara Follett: The Department's social media channels are maintained as part of the routine business of its web team. This has eight full-time, and one part-time, member of staff. The cost in salary terms for maintaining these social media channels has not been disaggregated but only forms a small proportion of the team's work load.

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people entered post at each grade of the Senior Civil Service in his Department *(a)* on promotion from within and *(b)* on recruitment from outside his Department in each year since January 2005. [322711]

Barbara Follett: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many grade 2 civil servants are employed in his Department. [324956]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* There are six directors general (SCS pay band 3) civil servants employed in the Department.

Departmental Temporary Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on *(a)* agency fees and *(b)* salaries of agency staff recruited to work at its headquarters (i) in each financial year since 2004-05 and (ii) in 2009-10 in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many agency staff his Department employed at each grade or equivalent at its headquarters in each year since 2004-05. [322840]

Barbara Follett: The Department has published its expenditure on Agency staff, staff substitution and Interim Management for the last three years in its annual reports. The breakdown of *(a)* agency fees and *(b)* salaries of agency staff could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For 2006-07 spend (contained in Chapter 10, Table 4 —page 115):

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/2007-annual-report.pdf

For 2007-08 spend (contained in Chapter 10, Table 5 —page 141):

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/05.pdf

For 2008-09 spend (contained in Chapter 10, Table 13 —page 165):

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1281142.pdf

In the current financial year 2009-10 the indicative spend is £15.1 million as at the end of February 2010. However full out-turn figures will not be available until the early summer when they will be published in the Department's annual report.

	AA	AO	EO	HEO	SEO	G6	G7	SCS	HPTO	SPTO	N/A	Total
2004	4	38	9	11	6	1	6	1	1	1	38	116
2005	3	41	20	12	3	0	4	2	1	1	57	144
2006	8	47	30	32	14	1	14	6	1	0	73	226
2007	2	91	65	39	18	4	19	6	0	3	0	247
2008	2	59	102	46	25	19	28	12	2	5	0	305
2009	2	5	14	21	3	3	7	2	0	0	1	58

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many agency and temporary staff his Department employed in each of the last three years. [324331]

Barbara Follett: Over the last three years the Department has used several different suppliers to find temporary and agency staff and, the details of the many individual contracts involved can only be disaggregated at a disproportionate cost.

Details of the Department's staffing levels are published each year in its Annual Report and Resource Accounts, copies of which can be found on its external website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 957W, on departmental temporary employment, what the total amount spent on employing temporary staff was in each of the last three years. [324332]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) today, PQ 322840.

Departmental Translation Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on translators in each year since 1997. [325591]

Barbara Follett: The Department have spent the following on language interpretation for the last four years. Figures for earlier years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

FY	*Amount (£)*
2006-07	2,428
2007-08	6,529
2008-09	4,337
2009-10	3,428

Departmental Written Questions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament. [325596]

Barbara Follett: Up to 30 March 2010, the Department had received 368 written questions for answer on a named day of which 303 (82 per cent.) were answered on the due date.

Disadvantaged

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on each of the adults facing chronic exclusion pilots, which began in 2007; and which of them have been continued and included in other Government programmes. [325675]

Barbara Follett: All 12 of the adults facing chronic exclusion pilots continue to provide support to vulnerable people.

Two interim reports have been published on the Cabinet Office website, detailing the outcomes for clients; including improvements in accommodation, use of health services and overall wellbeing.

The complete findings of the ACE pilots—including cost-benefit analysis—are due to be published in the autumn.

Continued funding has been confirmed for:

Tyneside Cyrenians

Turning Point Connected Care

South West London and St. George's New Directions Team

Provisional funding has been agreed for:

NOAH Enterprise, Luton

Negotiations for the continuation of funding in the remaining eight areas are ongoing.

Housing: Prices

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost was of a dwelling purchased by a first-time buyer in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* each Government Office Region and *(d)* each local authority area in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the most recent period for which figures are available. [324617]

John Healey: The latest average mix-adjusted purchase price for first-time buyers from 1993 for England, Wales and Government Office regions are available on the Department's website.

Since 1997 over 160,000 households have been helped into home ownership through Government schemes. A full breakdown of low cost home ownership provision can be found on the Department's website.

Leasehold Valuation Tribunal

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many cases relating to major works affecting local authority leaseholders have been brought before leasehold valuation tribunals in each year since 2005-06. [325276]

John Healey: It is not possible without disproportionate cost to say how many cases relating to major works affecting local authority leaseholders have been brought before leasehold valuation tribunals in each year since 2005-06.

Local Government Finance: Home Care Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the Personal Care at Home Bill's compliance with the new burdens doctrine for local authorities. [325755]

Barbara Follett: As with all policies and programmes the Government are committed to assessing the costs to local authorities of the Personal Care at Home Bill. This will be funded through a combination of additional grant and from local authority efficiency savings and will only be introduced from April 2011.

It is right for local government to help central Government deliver this new commitment. We believe that councils can implement efficiency savings because:

the costs of delivering local services has fallen, with recent low levels of inflation and affordable pay settlements;

Budget 2010 announced new measures to free-up local resources by reducing burdens and targets and making reductions in ring-fencing;

we have made record amounts of investment in local government, with councils receiving £8.6 billion more over the current spending review period.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government of 17 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 279WH, on port business rates, what steps have been taken to improve the Valuation Office Agency's fast-track process following his discussions with Treasury Ministers. [324780]

Barbara Follett: Under its fast-track arrangements for ratepayers with backdated bills, the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has pledged to give an initial response to points raised in a proposal within 10 working days and a final decision within two months in all but the most complex cases. As at 4 November 2009, the VOA statistics show that they have met the fast-track timescales on 97 per cent. of proposals received.

Where the ratepayer is not in agreement with the decision, the VOA refers appeals to the independent Valuation Tribunal for England (VTE) for early listing. Once a proposal is transferred to the VTE as an appeal, it is outside the fast-track system and falls into the usual appeals process.

There are currently no plans to amend the fast track process.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fast track reviews of rating assessment of port companies were *(a)* initiated and *(b)* completed in 2009; how many will continue into 2010-11; how business rates are being collected from companies which have not yet been assessed; and whether such companies are deemed to be listed for business rates. [325558]

Barbara Follett: Under the fast-track arrangements for ratepayers with backdated bills, which it introduced on 24 November 2008, the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) pledges to give an initial response to points raised about proposal within 10 working days and a final decision within two months in all but the most complex cases.

Up until 17 March 2010, 1,026 formal challenges have been subject to the fast-track arrangements, of these, 644 have been resolved and 382 are outstanding. 197 have been transmitted as appeals to the valuation tribunal following issue of the valuation officer's considered decision. In practice, although ratepayers and their agents have been invited to support early listing dates, very few have taken this offer up.

Rates are a tax on properties capable of beneficial occupation. When one appears on the ratings list, its occupier, which may be a business, becomes liable for this tax. All properties that appear on the ratings list are similarly liable and their rates will be collected by the billing authority in the usual way. However, if for any reason, including an exemption, a property does not appear on the ratings list, it means that rates are not being collected in respect of that property.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures were used to implement the separate rating of port companies in each year since 1999; and how many such companies were *(a)* visited and *(b)* notified of their rating by a representative of the Valuation Office Agency in each year since 1999. [325559]

Barbara Follett: The principles concerning separate rateability where there is 'exclusive occupation' and 'paramount control' are long established and predate the ports review as well as the end of prescribed rating. The lead case on this subject is a House of Lords decision which dates back to 1936—Westminster Council v Southern Railway Company and W.H. Smith and Son. There was, therefore no 'implementation' of a new separate ratings policy either after or before 1999. In other words, any property, other than a statutory port authority, that met the separate assessment criteria, even before 1999, should have been rated separately.

The Valuation Office Agency have advised us that since May 2006, it has inspected over 800 properties (hereditaments) within 55 ports in England and Wales as part of the ports review.

Information was collected from the statutory port operators, ratepayers and through physical inspection of the property. In cases where the information supported separate assessment, the ratepayer was served a notice informing them of the assessment.

The agency does not maintain records of the number of properties within ports inspected and notified in each year since 1999. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes in rateable values in the 2005-10 Rating Cycle have been provided to port operators as a result of the new regime of retrospective business rates on firms operating in ports. [323082]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my noble Friend Lord McKenzie of Luton to Lord Bates on 12 November 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WA208-209.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has undertaken costings of the policies of *(a)* the Conservative Party and *(b)* the Liberal Democrat Party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months. [324402]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1044W.

Planning Permission: Stoke on Trent

Mr. Fiello: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will call in for examination the decision of the Planning Inspectorate on the application for a development sited at Nashe Drive in Stoke-on-Trent South constituency; and if he will examine the consistency of the Inspectorate's decision in this case with the determinations in previous similar cases in the area. [325761]

John Healey: Once the decision of the Planning Inspectorate has been issued the Secretary of State cannot call in for his consideration either of the two appeals that have been determined in the Nashe Drive, Stoke on Trent area. The only way that the decision for the change of use to the hot food takeaway which had been refused planning permission could have been reconsidered was if it was successfully challenged in the High Court on a point of law. As the decision was not challenged it is final. The other appeal was allowed subject to conditions.

In respect of the consistency of the decisions each case would have raised different issues and policy considerations and would have been determined on their own planning merits.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Insulation: Housing

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many homes in Great Britain had cavity walls and no cavity wall insulation at the end of *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and if he will make a statement. [325683]

Joan Ruddock: We estimate that by the end of 2008, approximately 10 million homes in Great Britain had received cavity wall insulation, leaving around 3.5 million homes with cavities still possible to be filled without significant practical difficulties. Approximately 600,000 cavities were treated during 2009, taking the total number of filled cavities to just over 10.5 million and leaving an estimated 2.9 million homes with cavities considered practical to fill. The Government have committed to filling all cavity walls, where practical, by the end of 2015.

Further information can be found in the 2008 English Housing Survey, and in the Government's recent Warm Homes, Greener Homes strategy and supporting documents.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Batteries: Waste Disposal

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department issues on the criteria to be applied to assess whether a battery is easily removable from an appliance under the requirements of the Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009; and what guidance his Department has issued on whether models of the Apple iPhone on sale in the UK meet such requirements. [325745]

Ian Lucas: Government guidance notes to accompany the Batteries and Accumulators (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2008 were published by the Department in August of that year (URN 08/1130). These include an explanation of the requirement for appliances to be designed in such a way as to allow ready removal of their batteries, unless certain conditions relating to, for example, safety or performance, apply.

The notes also give answers to common questions regarding removability, but do not provide advice on every type of appliance, nor on individual products, such as the Apple iPhone. However, the appointed regulator, the National Measurement Office, has had contact with a number of companies, including Apple, to discuss the processes and procedures they have in place for ensuring compliance with the legislation.

Croydon

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will set out with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to the Croydon Central constituency, the effects of his Department's policies on that constituency since 2005. [325823]

Ian Lucas: Since 2005, the policies and actions of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (and its predecessors) have focused on building a competitive economy and on delivering prosperity and sustainable economic growth. The implementation of BIS policy in the London borough of Croydon (information is not available specifically for the Croydon Central constituency) has been taken forward primarily by the London Development Agency and Government Office for London, working in partnership with the local authority and other relevant bodies.

Caution must be exercised in seeking to attribute directly the effects of specific measures on local economic indicators. None the less, examples of how BIS policies and actions have impacted on Croydon include:

Levels of skills have increased in Croydon since 2005 and remain at around the London and national averages:

- Performance at level 2 has increased from 68.7 per cent. to 71.4 per cent.
- Performance at level 3 has increased from 49.9 per cent. to 53.7 per cent.
- Performance at level 4 has increased from 31.6 per cent. to 35.6 per cent.

The overall stock of registered businesses in Croydon grew from 9,000 in 2005 to 9,435 in 2007 (latest data available).

The number of businesses supported by Business Link in London has increased steadily since 2007-08, when it picked up the contract:

- From 4,222 businesses accessing information in 2007-08 to 6,388 in 2009-10
- From 196 businesses receiving intensive assistance in 2007-08 to 369 in 2009-10.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many designs for its *(a)* internal website and *(b)* intranet his Department and its predecessors have commissioned since 2005; and what the cost was of each such design. [321998]

Ian Lucas: The Department has commissioned four intranet designs since 2005 involving the use of external companies.

The Human Resources (HR) section of the intranet for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) was substantially redesigned in 2007/08. The cost of this redesign was £16,653.

The intranet for the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was designed in-house when DIUS was created in June 2007. The intranet was redesigned in 2008/09 at a cost of £2,800 for the main DIUS intranet and £2,400 for the Government Office for Science (GO-Science) intranet.

Existing intranet designs were used when BIS was created in June 2009 by merging BERR and DIUS. The BIS intranet was updated in September 2009 at a cost of £6,400. This included the costs of software fixes and improvements. The specific costs for design are not available.

The BIS intranet is currently being redesigned to improve its accessibility and to provide staff better access to corporate information. The costs for this redesign cannot be provided as the work is not yet complete.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 288W, whether his Department has made an estimate of the comparative *(a)* financial cost and *(b)* level of carbon dioxide emissions from (i) video conferencing and telepresence and (ii) travel to meetings. [325666]

Ian Lucas: At the time of considering the investment for video conferencing and telepresence facilities for the ex-DIUS Department, a cost benefit analysis was carried out which assessed potential benefits through the reduced need for travel between London and Sheffield, the then Department's two main staff locations. This estimated reduced travel for staff members to (up to) four meetings per day, is equivalent to savings of £440,000 per annum when the facilities are fully utilised. The impact on the carbon dioxide emissions directly related to this reduced travel, compared with the use of video conferencing and telepresence, was not directly factored into the original estimates.

Jarvis: Insolvency

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider the provision of support for retaining the *(a)* jobs and *(b)* skills of the workforce of Jarvis plc. [325783]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government regret that, despite the support provided through the HMRC Time To Pay scheme, Jarvis Plc was unable to continue to trade. There are two principal parts of the business, the rail businesses and the Facilities Management services for PFI contracts. With regard to the rail businesses BIS are offering all available support through Jobcentre Plus and the Regional Development Agencies. This support is to help those made redundant back into the workforce, including facilitating contacts with other employers in the Rail Industry, to ensure that, where possible, their valuable skills are retained. For the Facilities Management business we and colleagues in HMT and Partnerships UK are liaising with the Administrators to work towards a smooth transition of the business and staff to new ownership.

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Office of Rail Regulation on the entry into administration of Jarvis plc. [325784]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have spoken to Bill Emery, the Office of Rail Regulation's chief executive on 1 April and Ian Prosser, Chief Inspector of Railways and Director of Railway Safety at the Office of Rail Regulation on 7 April.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Post Office on the possible establishment of a Post Bank; and if he will make a statement. [324337]

Ian Lucas: I refer my hon. Friend to the written statement that my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills made to the House on 29 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 73-74WS, on the issue of Post Office Banking. This sets out the Government's vision for the future of financial services at the Post Office. The Government's response to the Post Office Banking Consultation, published on the same day, details how the Government and the Post Office will work together to deliver a greatly expanded role for Post Office financial services. Copies of the Government's Response to the Post Office Banking Consultation are available in the Libraries of the House.

Students: Radicalism

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what working groups his Department has which undertake work on combating religious extremism at universities. [321686]

Mr. Lammy: There are no formal departmentally-led working groups which undertake work on combating religious extremism at universities, although the Department regularly consults with a range of stakeholders on this issue.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Rural Payments Agency expects to make the payment outstanding to the constituent of the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes, Mr R. A. Sawbridge, registered with SBI number 106253911 and

holding number 0315736. [325748]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Processing work on Mr. Sawbridge's 2009 Single Payment Scheme claim is ongoing. The claim value has not yet been finalised as there are issues yet to be resolved connected to earlier entitlement transfer activity.

It is very difficult to predict when the work will complete to allow payment to be made but the Rural Payments Agency is working hard to ensure all remaining payments are made as soon as possible.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the likely contribution to the effectiveness of his Department's bovine tuberculosis policy of eliminating that disease in wildlife; and if he will make a statement; [325570]

(2) whether he plans to take steps to *(a)* eliminate and *(b)* reduce the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in wildlife. [325572]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The key issue with bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in wildlife is when the disease is transmitted to livestock.

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate issued a licence for the injectable badger vaccine on 24 March 2010. Steps are being taken to use this vaccine in badgers through the Badger Vaccine Deployment Project, which will assess and maximise the viability of using the injectable badger vaccine and to help us move towards the long term goal of an oral badger vaccine. Vaccination is not 100 per cent. effective in terms of protection. As with many other disease control strategies, vaccination is a risk reduction measure most likely to be successful in controlling bTB when considered alongside other disease control measures and not in isolation.

Government's policy is that no licences will be issued for culling badgers for the purpose of preventing the spread of bTB in cattle, although we remain open to the possibility of revisiting this policy under exceptional circumstances, or if new scientific evidence were to become available.

Bovine Tuberculosis: South West

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms in *(a)* the south-west and *(b)* Torridge and West Devon constituency were under bovine tuberculosis restrictions on the latest date for which figures are available. [325571]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The latest data from VetNet shows that there were 2,409 herds under restriction in the Government office for the south-west county region (Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Isles of Scilly, Somerset, Wiltshire) during the 12 months up to 31 December 2009. Of this figure 1,017 were from Devon.

DEFRA is unable to give data for areas smaller than county level and is therefore unable to provide data for Torridge and West Devon.

Please note that data downloaded from the VetNet system are provisional and subject to change as more data become available.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle in *(a)* the south-west and *(b)* Torridge and West Devon constituency have been slaughtered under his Department's bovine tuberculosis prevention policy in the last 12 months. [325573]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There were 16,230 cattle slaughtered under bovine tuberculosis measures in the Government office for the south-west county region (Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Isles of Scilly, Somerset, Wiltshire) during the 12 months up to 31 December 2009. Of this number 6,863 were from Devon.

DEFRA is unable to give data for areas smaller than county level and is therefore unable to provide data for Torridge and West Devon.

Please note that data downloaded from the VetNet system are provisional and subject to change as more data become available.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU voted on each agenda item at the recent CITES conference of parties in Doha. [325680]

Huw Irranca-Davies: While the majority of items discussed at the 15 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Doha were agreed by consensus after discussions, several were voted upon. The following table indicates which these were and how the UK and the EU voted on each of those occasions. In all but one instance the UK and the EU votes were the same. The voting record is as follows:

Agenda item		Vote	
		UK	EU
18.	Review of Resolutions		
	Annex 10: Conf. 12.2 - Procedure for approval of externally funded projects	Vote in plenary to reopen debate	
		No	No
19.	Review of Decisions	Vote in Committee II on Decision 14.81	
		No	No

Agenda item			*Vote*
41.	Applications to register operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes		
	41.1	Consideration of operations subject to an objection	
		Annex 1: Application from Birds International, Inc. (Philippines) to register Amazona barbadensis	Vote in Committee II
			Abstain Abstain
		Annex 2: Application from Birds International, Inc. (Philippines) to register Ara ambigua	Vote in Committee II
			Abstain Abstain
		Annex 3: Application from Birds International, Inc. (Philippines) to register Ara macao	Vote in Committee II
			Abstain Abstain
		Annex 4: Application from Birds International, Inc. (Philippines) to register Cacatua sulphurea abbotti	Vote in Committee II
			Abstain Abstain
			Vote in Plenary
			Yes Yes
		Annex 5: Application from Birds International, Inc. (Philippines) to register Cacatua sulphurea citrinocristata	Vote in Committee II
			Abstain Abstain
			Vote in Plenary
			Yes Yes
		Annex 6: Application from Birds International, Inc. (Philippines) to register Cacatua sulphurea sulphurea	Vote in Committee II
			Abstain Abstain
			Vote in Plenary
			Yes Yes
		Annex 7: Application from Birds International, Inc. (Philippines) to register Cacatua moluccensis	Vote in Committee II
			Abstain Abstain
			Vote in Plenary
			Yes Yes
		Annex 12: Application from Pacific Northwest Falcons (United States) to register Falco rusticolus and F. peregrinus x F. rusticolus	Vote in Committee II
			Yes Yes
		Annex 13: Application from David Knutson (United States) to register Falco peregrinus	Vote in Committee II
			Yes Yes
		Annex 14: Application from Hollister Longwings (United States) to register Falco rusticolus, F. peregrinus and F. rusticolus x F. peregrinus	Vote in Committee II
			Yes Yes
	41.2	Request from the Philippines regarding Birds International (Philippines)	Vote in Committee II
			Abstain Abstain
53.	Conservation and management of sharks and stingrays		Vote in Committee I
			Yes Yes
68.	Proposals to amend Appendices I and II		
	2	Lynx rufus (United States of America) Bobcat	Vote in Committee I
			No No

Agenda item		Vote	
3	Ursus maritimus (United States of America) Polar bear	Vote in Committee I	
		No	No
4	Loxodonta africana (United Republic of Tanzania)	Vote in Committee I on downlisting	
	African elephant	Abstain	Abstain
		Vote in Committee I on allowing one off ivory sale	
		No	No
		Vote in Plenary on downlisting only	
		Abstain	Abstain
5	Loxodonta africana (Zambia) African elephant NB After the vote against allowing a one-off sale of ivory in Tanzania, Zambia withdrew its application for a one-off sale	Vote in Committee I on downlisting	
		Abstain	Abstain
		Vote in Plenary on downlisting	
		Abstain	Abstain
6	Loxodonta africana (Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali and Sierra Leone) African elephant	Vote in Committee I	
		No	No
9	Crocodylus niloticus (Egypt) Nile crocodile	Vote in Committee I	
		No	No
		Reopened in Plenary	
		Adopted by consensus	
10	Uromastyx ornata (Israel) Ornate Dabb lizard	Withdrawn	
15	Sphyrna lewini Sphyrna mokarran Sphyrna zygaena Carcharhinus plumbeus Carcharhinus obscurus (Palau and the United States of America) Sharks	Vote in Committee I	
		Yes	Yes
		Vote in Plenary	
		Yes	Yes
16	Carcharhinus longimanus (Palau and the United States of America) Whitetip shark	Vote in Committee I	
		Yes	Yes
17	Lamna nasus (Palau and Sweden[1]) Porbeagle	Vote in Committee I	
		Yes	Yes
		Vote in Plenary	
		Yes	Yes
18	Squalus acanthias (Palau and Sweden[1]) Spiny dogfish	Vote in Committee I	
		Yes	Yes
19	Thunnus thynnus (Monaco)	Vote in Committee I on EU proposal	
	Bluefin tuna	Yes	Yes
		Vote in Committee I on original Monaco proposal	
		Yes	Abstain
21	Coralliidae Corallium spp. and Paracorallium spp.) (Sweden[1] and the United States of America) Red and pink corals	Vote in Committee I	
		Yes	Yes

[1] On behalf of the European Community member states acting in the interest of the European Community.

Croydon

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Croydon, Central constituency, the effects on that constituency of his Department's policies since 2005. [325587]

Dan Norris: Due to the broad nature of the question and the wide range of DEFRA policies implemented in Croydon, Central, it is not possible to provide a detailed answer in the form requested.

Croydon, Central is obliged through statute to comply with central Government legislation. DEFRA's policy responsibilities are summarised in its departmental strategic objectives (DSOs) that have been agreed with the Treasury:

To promote a society that is adapting to the effects of climate change, through a national programme of action and a contribution to international action.

To promote a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment.

To promote sustainable, low carbon and resource efficient patterns of consumption and production.

To promote an economy and a society that are resilient to environmental risk.

To champion sustainable development.

To promote a thriving farming and food sector with an improving net environmental impact.

To encourage a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply.

To provide socially and economically sustainable rural communities.

To be a respected Department delivering efficient and high quality services and outcomes.

DEFRA publishes annual departmental reports which set out progress against its Public Service Agreement targets and DSOs. The 2009 Report is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/reports/documents/2009-deptreport.pdf

Past reports are available online in the National Archives.

For information on a specific DEFRA policy in Croydon Central, the Government Office for the South East is able to provide information on implementation and the benefits to the area.

Departmental Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account his Department's food procurement policy takes of animal welfare. [325531]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has worked over a number of years to provide guidance to Departments on incorporating sustainable development objectives into their food procurement operations. This explicitly includes issues of animal welfare.

We strongly encourage the procurement of products that meet higher animal welfare standards wherever possible. DEFRA has been working at ministerial level to encourage the public sector to procure food to the highest possible standards.

In February this year new guidance was published, advising public sector procurers how to incorporate an additional contract award criterion for pork, bacon and other pigmeat products. This is aimed at improving the quality of the products procured and asks procurers to ensure that supply tenders are able to offer pigmeat products that comply with certain welfare and animal health standards.

Farms

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farm holdings there were in each agricultural sector in each county in each year since 1997. [323112]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have placed the information requested in the Library of the House.

The data can also be found on the DEFRA website

www.defra.gov.uk

at the following address

www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/junesurvey/results.htm

Food: Imports

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the quality standards of food proposed to be imported to the UK; and if he will make a statement. [325280]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

We have been advised by the Food Standards Agency that official controls are in place to monitor food imports from countries outside the European Union (EU) and to ensure it is safe. Products of animal origin such as meat from approved countries outside the EU must come from approved establishments. Such products must enter the United Kingdom through designated Border Inspection Posts under the control of veterinary inspectors, where they undergo documentary and identity checks, and a prescribed proportion are subject to physical checks which may include testing for contaminants.

Food of non-animal origin is also subject to checks by authorised officers and, in addition, depending on its source and whether it is regarded as high risk, may undergo stringent checks to ensure it is safe for human consumption.

Food: Marketing

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to require more accurate information on the country of origin to be displayed on food products; and if he will make a statement. [325279]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Origin labelling is required on certain foods and in cases where not to inform the consumer of origin may mislead them. In cases where voluntary origin information is provided this must be accurate and the Food Standards Agency has had best practice guidance in place since 2002 recommending labelling formats that are meaningful to consumers.

The Government have been encouraging even greater clarity, an example of which is the new voluntary industry Code of Practice on the labelling of pork and pork products which resulted from the Government's Pig Meat Supply Chain Task Force - a supply chain-wide group, facilitated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

In addition, origin labelling rules are being discussed in the European Union as part of a proposal for a new Food Information Regulation. The Government are pressing in these discussions for greater clarity of information when origin claims are made.

Potatoes: Morocco

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* his counterparts in devolved Administrations, *(b)* the European Commission and *(c)* the Government of Morocco on the recent impounding of seed potatoes exported from the UK to Morocco and the rejection of consignments due to contamination with common scab and silver scurf; and if he will make a statement; [325765]

(2) what recent discussions he has had on the dispute between the EU and Morocco on the import of tomatoes and the imposition by Morocco of trade restrictions on the export of seed potatoes to that country. [325766]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been discussions at official level between England, Scotland and Northern Ireland about the Moroccan rejection of consignments of seed potatoes from the UK. The problems have arisen because of a change in interpretation and inspection practices in Morocco regarding potato skin problems of traded seed potatoes. Although in making these changes the Moroccan authorities have acted within their sovereign rights, it is disappointing that there was no prior notification.

Officials have visited Morocco to discuss the problem and the British embassy and EU missions to Morocco have been involved. The European Commission and officials from member states have discussed the issue with Morocco in the margins of an international meeting and have agreed to establish a working group to discuss and agree consistent application of inspection methods in future years.

I am not aware of any current trade dispute between EU and Morocco in respect of the import of tomatoes. This trade is carefully monitored by the European Commission.

Renewable Energy: Waste

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which energy-from-waste facilities of each type received planning permission in the last three years; and what the location was of each. [325314]

John Healey *[holding answer 6 April 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

The total numbers of planning decisions (including permissions and refusals) for England relating to applications for waste facilities that may include energy recovery are published in table 3.4 of the Statistical Release on Annual Development Control, England, 2008-09. This is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/developmentcontrol200809

The following table provides a further breakdown for most recent available year, 2008-09, showing the numbers of applications granted and the location of each of these applications by local planning authority. These figures are as reported by local planning authorities to Communities and Local Government.

Application Type	*LA name*	*Number of applications granted in 2008-09*
Incineration with energy recovery	—	12
	Bedfordshire	1
	Devon	1
	Hampshire	1
	Herefordshire	1
	Kingston upon Hull	1
	London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	1
	North Lincolnshire	1
	Northamptonshire	2
	Nottinghamshire	1
	Shropshire	1
	West Berkshire	1
Anaerobic digestion	—	12
	Bedfordshire	1
	Devon	2
	Durham	1
	Northamptonshire	5
	Oxfordshire	2
	West Sussex	1
Pyrolysis	—	3
	Bedfordshire	1
	North Yorkshire	1
	Wiltshire	1
Total	—	27

River Lymington: Ferries

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will replace Wightlink as the competent authority in the Lymington river for the purposes of constructing an impact assessment of the new ferries; and if he will make a statement; [325679]

(2) when he plans to respond to the e-mail from Michael Derrick of the Lymington River Association on the position of Wightlink as the competent authority for ferry operations. [325701]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are no provisions in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, which came into force on 1 April, that enable a competent authority to be replaced.

Officials wrote to Michael Derrick on 6 April to confirm this.

Slaughterhouses

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions have been brought for breaches of slaughterhouse regulations in each of the last five years. [325806]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of prosecutions cases brought by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for breaches of slaughterhouses regulations, by financial year, is as follows:

	Number of cases
2007-08	22
2008-09	5
2009-10	2

Information in relation to each of the years from 2005 to 2007 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reports his Department received of breaches of regulations governing slaughtering practices in each of the last five years. [325807]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Breaches of regulations involving the welfare of animals at slaughter or killing on farm are investigated by Animal Health on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The number of breaches that were reported to Animal Health in each of the last five calendar years were:

	Number
2005	45
2006	29
2007	19
2008	24
2009	12

Where slaughter takes place in a slaughterhouse, enforcement is undertaken by the Meat Hygiene Service. The number of cases referred to DEFRA Legal Services in the last five years (April to March) were:

	Number
2005-06	29
2006-07	34
2007-08	17
2008-09	7
2009-10	5

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent reviews his Department has undertaken of the effectiveness of regulations governing slaughtering practices. [325808]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Slaughter practices involving the welfare of animals are currently governed by the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (WASK) as amended. These regulations implement Council Directive 93/119/EC. This directive was reviewed by the Commission in 2008 and 2009 and as a result Council Regulation EC No. 1099/2009 was made on 24 September 2009. This regulation will apply from 1 January 2013 and will replace directive 93/119.

The new regulation will be directly applicable in the UK and requires every member state to establish penalties for infringements. We are currently reviewing how this will impact on WASK and will be consulting on the legislative changes required at the appropriate time.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Billy Wright Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Wright Inquiry has spent on IT since its inception. [325512]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Billy Wright Inquiry that the Inquiry has spent £7.15 million on information technology since its inception.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Wright Inquiry has spent on IT consultants since its inception. [325513]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Billy Wright Inquiry that the Inquiry has spent £951,000 on IT consultants since its inception.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budget is of the press office for the Wright Inquiry in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [325514]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Billy Wright Inquiry that it does not have a press office or employ a press officer. Therefore the Billy Wright Inquiry does not have a budget for a press office in either of financial years 2009-10 or 2010-11.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people the Wright Inquiry has employed in each post in each month since its inception. [325515]

Mr. Woodward: From October 2004, there has been one civil servant working as solicitor to the Inquiry.

The following staff changes have occurred:

In February 2005, a secretary to the Inquiry was recruited.

In April 2005, a deputy solicitor to the Inquiry was recruited.

In June 2005, an assistant solicitor was recruited.

In July 2006, the assistant solicitor ended his secondment and returned to his home department.

In November 2006, a document evidence manager and a finance accommodation officer were recruited.

In April 2007, two personal secretaries were recruited.

In May 2007, a witness liaison manager was recruited.

In November 2007, an assistant solicitor was recruited.

In March 2009, the finance and accommodation officer ended his secondment and returned to his home department.

In March 2009, one of the personal secretaries ended her secondment and returned to her home department.

In September 2009, one of the personal secretaries resigned from her home department and ended her secondment.

In September 2009, the assistant solicitor ended her secondment and returned to her home department.

In December 2009, the document evidence manager retired.

In March 2010, the solicitor to the Inquiry retired.

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Saville Inquiry has spent on virtual reality technology since its inception. [325506]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Bloody Sunday Inquiry that it has spent approximately £106,000 on virtual reality technology.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Saville Inquiry has spent on IT since its inception. [325507]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Bloody Sunday Inquiry that it has spent approximately £34.3 million on information technology to the end of February 2010, including £2.2 million on information technology consultancy costs.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Saville Inquiry has spent on accommodation since its inception. [325510]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Bloody Sunday Inquiry that it has spent approximately £26.2 million on accommodation (including hire of venues for inquiry hearings plus office and private accommodation).

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in each role the Saville Inquiry has employed in each month since its inception. [325511]

Mr. Woodward: The Bloody Sunday Inquiry does not directly employ staff. The inquiry has engaged a number of people on loan or secondment from Government Departments/agencies to undertake specific posts and roles. A number of other people have been issued with NIO fixed-term contracts to work with the inquiry.

Over its lifespan, the number of staff in the inquiry peaked at 38 during hearings in April 2003. Posts included the secretary and deputy secretary to the inquiry, five inquiry solicitors one costs solicitor, one assistant solicitor, one press officer, one assistant press officer, three legal assistants, two researchers, six witness liaison, one finance assistant, one archivist, two personal assistants and 12 administrative support staff.

The inquiry has since reduced its complement to six staff, including the Secretary to the inquiry (part-time), deputy secretary, finance assistant, personal assistant to the chairman, IT assistant (part-time) and an administrative officer.

The inquiry also holds contracts with employment agencies for the provision of temporary staff for administration services. These have not been included in this response, as their employer is the temporary staff agency.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will set a date beyond which no further invoices or accounts for legal work in connection with the Saville Inquiry will be accepted. [325749]

Mr. Woodward: I have proposed to fund legal representation at public expense for Interested Parties provided with advance sight of the report on the day of publication. A protocol governing the scope of this work is being developed, including a time limit for the receipt of invoices.

Departmental Books

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on books for its libraries in each of the last five years; and which books were purchased. [325407]

Mr. Woodward: Expenditure and a list of the books purchased in each of the last five years by the Northern Ireland Office, including its arm's length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [325496]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 731W.

Festivals and Special Occasions

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on events to mark *(a)* St. Patrick's Day and *(b)* the Twelfth of July in each of the last five years. [325428]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, has not incurred any spend in the past five years on marking either St. Patrick's Day or the Twelfth of July.

Robert Hamill Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Hamill Inquiry has spent on IT since its inception. [325501]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Robert Hamill Inquiry that it has spent £6.35 million on information technology since its inception.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Hamill Inquiry has spent on IT consultants since its inception. [325502]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Robert Hamill Inquiry that it has spent £942,000 on IT consultants since its inception.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budget is of the press office for the Hamill Inquiry in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [325503]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Robert Hamill Inquiry that the budget of the press office for the inquiry in financial year 2009-10 is £57,509 and in financial year 2010 it is £21,387.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people the Hamill Inquiry has employed in each role in each month since its inception. [325505]

Mr. Woodward: From November 2004 there have been two civil servants working as secretary and solicitor to the inquiry.

The following staff changes have been made:

In January 2005, a deputy solicitor, assistant solicitor and deputy secretary were recruited.

In February 2005, a finance officer was recruited.

In March 2005, a higher executive officer and administrator were recruited.

In August 2005, the deputy secretary was released.

In November 2005, the deputy solicitor and assistant solicitor were released.

In January 2006, the administrator was released and a deputy solicitor was recruited.

In September 2006, the deputy solicitor was released and an assistant solicitor was recruited.

In January 2007, a finance/administration officer was recruited.

In May 2007, a deputy solicitor was recruited.

In July 2007, the assistant solicitor was released.

In September 2007, the secretary was released and the solicitor took on the secretarial role.

In January 2008, a witness information officer (50 per cent. full-time employment), a personal assistant (75 per cent. full-time employment) were recruited, and the finance officer moved to 50 per cent. full-time employment.

In February 2008, the witness information manager and personal assistant became full-time, and the 50 per cent. FTE finance officer was released.

In April 2008, a senior finance officer was recruited.

In July 2008, a witness team member (50 per cent. FTE) was recruited.

In August 2008, the witness team member became full-time.

In November 2008, an assistant to counsel was recruited.

In April 2009, an Information and Legal Liaison Officer was recruited.

In October 2009, the assistant to counsel, witness information officer and witness team member were released.

Rosemary Nelson Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Nelson Inquiry has spent on IT since its inception. [325516]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry that the inquiry has spent £7.08 million on information technology since its inception.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Nelson Inquiry has spent on IT consultants since its inception. [325517]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry that the inquiry has spent £1.23 million on IT consultancy from its inception.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budget is of the press office for the Nelson Inquiry in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [325518]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry that the inquiry uses one press officer on an ad-hoc basis. In the financial year 2009-10 the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry has no budget for a press office, and for the financial year 2010-11 has budgeted £14,100 for this function.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people the Nelson Inquiry has employed in each post in each month since its inception. [325519]

Mr. Woodward: From November 2004, there have been two civil servants working at the inquiry, acting as solicitor and secretary to the inquiry. The following staff changes have occurred:

In January 2005, two legal support officers, an evidence manager, a finance officer and an admin support officer were recruited.

In February 2005, a deputy secretary was recruited.

In March 2005, a deputy solicitor was recruited.

In May 2005, a finance manager was recruited.

In June 2005, one legal support officer was released and a second finance officer recruited.

In September 2005, an admin support officer was released.

In October 2005, one finance officer was released.

In November 2005, the evidence manager was released and one legal support officer was recruited.

In December 2005 one assistant solicitor, one legal support officer and one admin support officer were recruited.

In January 2006, one legal support officer was recruited.

In April 2006, a second assistant solicitor was recruited.

In August 2006, a team secretary was recruited.

In January 2007, a bundle manager was recruited.

In February 2007, an admin support officer was released.

In March 2007, one legal support officer was released.

In April 2007, three legal support officers were recruited.

In August 2007, an admin support officer was recruited.

In September 2007, a finance officer was released.

In October 2007, an assistant solicitor and a legal support officer were released.

In January 2008, an admin support officer was released and a writer/researcher was recruited.

In March 2008, an admin support officer was recruited.

In April 2008, one legal support officer was released.

In June 2008, a finance officer, one legal support officer and a witness co-ordinator were recruited.

In July 2008, one legal support officer and a witness co-ordinator were released.

In August 2008, an admin support officer was recruited.

In November 2008, a team secretary and a bundle manager were released.

In March 2009, a legal support officer was released.

In June 2009, an admin support officer, a legal support officer and a finance co-ordinator were released.

In July 2009, an admin support officer and the deputy secretary were released, and an archivist was recruited.

In September 2009, the secretary and a legal support officer were released.

In November 2009, a witness co-ordinator was released.

Smuggling: Fuel Oil

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been convicted of offences relating to *(a)* fuel smuggling and *(b)* fuel laundering in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [325539]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

In 2008-09, 10 people were convicted of hydrocarbon oil offences in Northern Ireland. The legislation that covers the evasion or attempted evasion of duty on hydrocarbon oil is the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, and this covers both fuel smuggling and fuel laundering offences.

Tackling fuel crime is a key priority for the Government. HM Revenue and Customs works in close partnership with other law enforcement agencies within the Organised Crime Task Force to disrupt fuel smugglers and launderers, bring them before the courts and confiscate their illegally acquired assets.

Ulster Scots Language

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what publications funded by his Department use the Ulster Scots language; and what the cost to the public purse was of providing such documents in the latest period for which figures are available. [325434]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has not funded any publications in the Ulster Scots language.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Croydon

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Croydon, Central constituency, the effects on that constituency of her Department's policies since 2005. [325589]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP leads the Government's response to some of the biggest issues facing the country—welfare and pension reform—and is a key player in tackling child poverty[1]. As the biggest delivery Department in the UK, DWP makes a difference to millions of people every day, helping them to lead safer, fairer and more rewarding lives that are free from poverty. We want to give people more choice and control over their lives and are committed to providing greater choice and personalised support to everyone who needs it so they have the opportunity to get into and remain in work. We believe that work works. Even in economically challenging times we know that work works for the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

Support to find work

Through Jobcentre Plus, we are promoting work as the best form of welfare for people of working age. Since February 2005, the number of people unemployed in Croydon, Central has increased by 66 per cent. to 3,365 and the number unemployed for more than one year has increased by 70 per cent. to 375. From August 2005 to August 2009 the number of lone parents claiming income support in Croydon, Central has fallen by 15 per cent. to 2,720.

Our new deals have helped lone parents, the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, disabled people, the over-50s and partners of unemployed people to move from benefit into work. Since their inception over 2.2 million people in Great Britain have found work with the support of the new deal, and 2,330 have been helped in Croydon, Central.

Support for children

We introduced a target to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Poverty is measured using a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs. This is in line with international best practice.

Statistics on the numbers of children living in poverty are not available at the constituency level.

Support for older people

Since 1997 our strategy has been to target help on the poorest pensioners while providing a solid foundation of support for all.

This year we will be spending over £13 billion more on pensioners than if we had continued with the policies that were in place in 1997. Around half of that money will go to the poorest third of pensioners.

In 1997 the poorest pensioners, who received income support, lived on £69 a week (£98 in today's prices). Today pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, means no pensioner needs to live on less than £130 a week, £198.45 for couples. As of August 2009, 4,860 pensioners in Croydon, Central are benefiting from pension credit.

In 2007-08 there were 900,000 fewer pensioners living in relative poverty in UK compared to 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs).

Statistics on the proportion of pensioners living in relative poverty are not available at constituency level, and Government office region level data are only available as three-year averages. The London Government office region can however be split into inner and outer London. The latest data for outer London cover the period 2005-08, and show that around 100,000 pensioners (or 19 per cent.) are in poverty (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs)[2].

Pensioners in the UK also benefit from a range of additional support such as the winter fuel payment which for winter 2009-10 is worth £250 for households with someone aged between 60-79 and £400 for households with someone aged 80 or over. These payments provide vital reassurance to older people that they can afford to turn up their heating during cold weather. Prior to winter 1997-98 less than £60 million per year was spent helping pensioners meet their fuel bills—we now spend around £2.7 billion on winter fuel payments alone. In winter 2008-09 (the last winter for which information is available) 19,360 people aged 60 and over benefited from winter fuel payments in Croydon, Central.

We have also taken steps to strengthen and protect the private pensions system to ensure people can continue to have confidence to save for their future through the establishment of the Pensions Protection Fund, the Financial Assistance Scheme and a more powerful and proactive pensions regulator.

The protection system ensures that, unlike in 1997, people are not left without a pension even in the event that their employer becomes insolvent.

As at end of February a total of 516 people in the London Government office region are receiving compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (data not available at constituency level).[3]

We have also taken forward a radical package of pension reforms in the Pensions Acts of 2007 and 2008 which will deliver a fairer and more generous state pension and extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time.

The state pension reforms begin to come into effect from 2010 and will mean around three quarters of women reaching state pension age in 2010 are expected to qualify for a full basic state pension compared to half without reform.

Support for disabled people and carers

Since 2001, we have significantly extended and improved civil rights for disabled people in areas such as employment, education, access to goods and services and transport. Disabled people in Croydon, Central will have benefited from these improvements. The Welfare Reform Act 2009 contains powers to increase choice and control for disabled adults, including disabled parents who are entitled to state support, enabling them to choose how certain state support is used to meet their individual needs. This will be trailblazed in eight local authority sites from late 2010. Older and less well off carers have gained extra help through the provisions within the National Carers Strategy.

[1] The Department for Work and Pensions was created in 2001 and so information relates to the Department and its predecessors.

[2] Numbers are shown rounded to the nearest 100,000. Percentages are shown rounded to the nearest whole percentage point.

[3] Regional information about assistance payments received by members from the Financial Assistance Scheme could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what disruption there has been to her Department's *(a)* Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System, *(b)* electronic records management and *(c)* Customer Information System since 22 January 2010. [325738]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows:

(a) Since 22 January 2010 there have been six instances of disruption to the FRAIMS system. The periods of disruption were:

26 and 27 January—one hour each time

2 and 3 February—one hour each time

16 February—20 minutes

24 February—one hour

2 and 3 March—one hour each time

15 and 16 March—one hour each time.

(b) There has been no disruption to ERM since 22 January 2010.

(c) There has been no disruption to the Customer Information System since 22 January 2010.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what testing of her Department's pensions uprating system was undertaken prior to its introduction on 26 March 2010; and what assessment she has made of the results. [325739]

Angela Eagle: The computer system that pays state pension is updated annually to reflect the new rates payable from the following tax year. This year the rates were entered in December 2009 ahead of notifications being issued to customers from the beginning of this year. The rates are checked by the Pension, Disability and Carers Service and DWP Corporate IT before being uploaded on the system and a sample of the notifications were checked prior to distribution to customers. The new rates will be payable from 12 April 2010.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department has issued letters containing incorrect information to recipients of *(a)* basic state pension and *(b)* child benefit since 22 January 2010. [325741]

Angela Eagle: The Department for Work and Pensions and the Pension Disability and Carers Service write to vast numbers of our pensioner customers each day and we do our best to ensure that each and every letter is accurate. However, it is inevitable that from time to time errors do occur; when they do, we do our best to provide the correct information as soon as possible after the error is identified.

Child benefit is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Departmental Recruitment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1313W, on departmental consultants, what the monetary value of contracts was held by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its (i) agencies and (ii) non-departmental public bodies with external recruitment consultants for the recruitment of temporary and permanent staff in each of the last three years. [322561]

Jim Knight: The spend on external recruitment consultants by the Department, its agencies and NDPBs in the last three financial years is as follows:

Spend (£ million)

Period	*DWP and agencies*	*NDPBs*	*Total*
April 2009 to February 2010 (to date)	10.0	2.7	12.7
April 2008 to March 2009	2.9	2.7	5.6
April 2007 to March 2008	0.9	1.9	2.8

Separation of DWP spend from that of its agencies could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

These figures should be seen in the context of a total staff count of over 100,000.

The spend in the period April 2009 to February 2010 was unusually high reflecting the need to quickly recruit over 15,000 additional staff into Jobcentre Plus to meet the extra demands created by the economic downturn. This action has paid off; Unemployment is now expected to be around 700,000 lower in 2010 than in the Budget 2009. The savings in benefits across the five years 2010-11 to 2014-15 compared with what was assumed at Budget

2009 is around £14 billion. This includes spend relating to housing benefit and council tax benefit as well as jobseeker's allowance. I expect the spend on external recruitment consultants for 2010-11 to be substantially lower.

The Department advertises all vacancies through Jobcentre Plus in addition to other methods. In line with common practice, we will incur expenditure when our recruitment involves an element of specialist executive search. The use of external agencies allows the Department to access the networking and contact with senior executives in different disciplines and organisations outside of the civil service.

Disability Living Allowance: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people were in receipt of the *(a)* care and *(b)* mobility component of the disability living allowance in (i) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and (ii) the London borough of Bexley in the latest period for which figures are available. [325773]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the table.

Disability living allowance: Cases in payment and percentage of population by award type, as at August 2009 for Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency and the London borough of Bexley

		Disability living allowance—Care				*Disability living allowance—Mobility*		
	Total	*Higher rate*	*Middle rate*	*Lower rate*	*Nil rate*	*Higher rate*	*Lower rate*	*Nil rate*
Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency	3,620	840	1,370	850	560	1,980	1,220	420
Bexleyheath and Crayford—percentage of population	4.3	1.0	1.6	1.0	0.7	2.3	1.4	0.5
London borough of Bexley	9,150	2,070	3,390	2,280	1,410	4,960	3,080	1,110
London borough of Bexley—percentage of population	4.1	0.9	1.5	1.0	0.6	2.2	1.4	0.5

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Office for National Statistics' population estimate mid 2007 for Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency is 84,826; and for the London borough of Bexley, the population estimate 2008 is 223,300.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Pension, Disability and Carers Service: Newcastle upon Tyne

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the annual operating cost of the Benefits Agency in Newcastle was in the latest year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [325237]

Jim Knight: The Benefits Agency was replaced by Jobcentre Plus and the Pension Service in 2002; the latter has since become part of the Pension Disability and Carers Service.

Both Jobcentre Plus and the Pension Disability and Carers Service are national organisations with centralised head office functions and centrally held contracts; their financial systems do not record total operating costs in the format you have requested.

Pensioners: Means-tested Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of those over the age of *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65 and *(c)* 70 years were in receipt of means-tested benefits in each year since 1997. [321490]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 10 March 2010]:* As a claimant can be in receipt of more than one benefit, and the total number of claimants receiving one or more means-tested benefits is not available, it is not possible to derive the number or percentage of people receiving means tested benefits from the available information.

Personal Injury: Compensation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps the Compensation Recovery Unit takes to check the validity of the National Insurance number of claimants; [325714]

(2) what steps the Compensation Recovery Unit takes *(a)* to verify the identity of claimants and *(b)* to eliminate claims made under fictitious names; [325715]

(3) what discussions the Compensation Recovery Unit (CRU) has had with the National Fraud Strategic Authority on steps to reduce the number of fraudulent claims made to the CRU; [325716]

(4) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Compensation Recovery Unit in dealing with fraudulent claims; and if she will make a statement; [325717]

(5) on how many occasions the Compensation Recovery Unit has notified insurance providers of fraudulent claims in each of the last five years; [325718]

(6) how many *(a)* claims the Compensation Recovery Unit (CRU) has dealt with and *(b)* fraudulent claims the CRU has identified in each of the last five years; [325719]

(7) on how many occasions the Compensation Recovery Unit found the National Insurance number in a claim submitted by an insurance company to be *(a)* false or incorrect and *(b)* not to match the name given in the last five years. [325720]

Helen Goodman: When an insurance company advises Compensation Recovery Unit of a claim to compensation they are not legally bound to supply a National Insurance number. However, they are required to provide sufficient information to ensure that the Department can trace the benefit records of the appropriate person. Compensation Recovery Unit is able to trace and validate the appropriate person's personal details, including their national insurance number, through the Department's central data repository, the Customer Information System (CIS).

Claims, fraudulent or otherwise, are not made to the Compensation Recovery Unit. The Compensation Recovery Unit is there to recover money paid out in benefit as a result of any accident, injury or disease which is covered by an award of compensation or any ambulance or hospital treatment charges incurred as a result of an accident or injury.

A compensator, usually an insurance company, must notify the Compensation Recovery Unit of a compensation claim so that the Department can take steps to reclaim any benefits paid or ambulance/hospital charges where appropriate.

Remploy: Consultants

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which consultants have been engaged by Remploy since March 2008; and what the cost of engaging them has been. [321719]

Jonathan Shaw: A list of consultants that have been engaged by Remploy since March 2008 is provided in the following list. Total spending by Remploy on consultants between April 2008 and the end of February 2010 was £5.28 million.

This expenditure reflects the additional costs of implementing Remploy's five-year modernisation plan including new IT infrastructure; the growth of Remploy's Employment Services branch network to meet Remploy's modernisation target to increase the number of disabled people into work to 20,000 by the end of 2012-13; and to deliver new contracts including the Flexible New Deal. The company expects the figures from 2010-11 to be substantially lower.

Consultants engaged by Remploy since March 2008

Ability Net Technical Centre
Ashutosh Khate
A Smarter Splash Limited
Barnett Waddingham
Bond
Bray Leino Ltd.
C11 (Hampshire) Ltd.
Carley Consult Ltd.
Caruso Consulting Ltd.
CIPD Enterprises Limited
CITI
Cognos/Ax
Creation Interactive
Deloitte MCS Limited
Fleet Lifeline Ltd.
Focus EAP
Gareth Matthews
Good Relations Wales
Hay Group Management Limited
Ian Blake
IBM
Impact Executives
Infor Global Solutions
Johnson Controls Limited
KPMG
Lionel Zetter
Mercuri Urval Limited
M Linell
Nine Feet Tall
Northgate
One To One Coaches Ltd.
Penna plc
Resilient Risk and Strategy Management
Social Firms UK Ltd.
Systems Consultants Services
The Leadership Factor
2e2
Vistorm Ltd.
Youd Andrews

Note:

The list and total cost does not include external recruitment providers used by Remploy to recruit staff, for example to their branch offices.

State Retirement Pensions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate her Department has made of the annual *(a)* gross and *(b)* net cost to the public purse of uprating the basic state pension in line with earnings from 2010-11; [324196]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the *(a)* annual and *(b)* cumulative (i) gross and (ii) net cost to the public purse of uprating the basic state pension in line with earnings from 2010-11; [324197]

(3) what estimate her Department has made of the additional annual *(a)* gross and *(b)* net cost to the public purse of uprating the basic state pension in line with earnings from 2010-11 up to the latest future date for which information is available. [324198]

Angela Eagle: Baseline projections of expenditure on pensioner benefits used for these costings assume that the basic state pension is increased by earnings from 2012. Prior to 2012, projections assume that the basic state pension is uprated by the greater of RPI or 2.5 per cent.

If the basic state pension were to be uprated by earnings in April 2010, the weekly value of the basic state pension to pensioners would be lower than the value from uprating it by 2.5 per cent which will apply from April 2010.

Additional basic state pension spend from uprating the basic state pensions by earnings from April 2010

£ billion (2009-10 price terms)

	Gross		Net of income related benefits	
	Annual	*Cumulative*	*Annual*	*Cumulative*
2010-11	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3
2011-12	-1.0	-1.4	-0.8	-1.1
2012-13	-1.1	-2.5	-0.8	-2.0
2013-14	-1.1	-3.5	-0.9	-2.8
2014-15	-1.1	-4.6	-0.9	-3.7
2015-16	-1.1	-5.7	-0.9	-4.6

Notes:

1. Estimates given are net to baseline, they do not include the gross additional basic state pension spend from implementing the 2007 Pensions Act reforms to the basic state pension from April 2010.
2. During the next Parliament, we will re-link the uprating of the basic state pension to average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012, but in any event by the end of the next Parliament at the latest. We will make a statement on the precise date at the beginning of the next Parliament.
3. In the financial years up to and including 2015-16 Treasury Economic assumptions consistent with Table C1 of the Budget Report 2010 have been used in the above modelling.
4. The costs and savings estimates provided are based on future projections of earnings and price inflation—which are inherently uncertain and subject to change particularly in light of the current economic uncertainty.
5. Estimates are in 2009/10 prices, have been rounded to the nearest £100 million and include UK and Overseas claimants.

Source:

DWP calculations

State Retirement Pensions: Denton

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Denton and Reddish constituency receive *(a)* basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [325849]

Angela Eagle: As at March 2009, there were 15,900 recipients of the basic state pension in Denton and Reddish constituency.

Notes:

1. Figures are subject a high degree of sampling error and should be used as a guide.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample

The information requested on the number of recipients of pension credit in Denton and Reddish constituency is in the following table:

	Total number of beneficiaries	*Total number of households*
As at August 2009	6,090	4,970

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Number of beneficiaries represents the number of people that pension credit helps and is the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are also claiming. (Since 2006 same-sex partners—civil partners and cohabiters are included in the same benefit unit.) Two individuals who are not partners but live in the same house will be counted as separate households; for example two sisters each receiving pension credit in their own right, sharing a house together would be counted as two households.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Thurrock Borough Council: Minimum Wage

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account Jobcentre Plus took of the legislative provisions on the national minimum wage in advertising a job for an apprentice administrative assistant with Thurrock borough council, reference GRT 57556, for 37 hours a week at a weekly salary of £95; and if she will make a statement. [325699]

Jim Knight: The vacancy to which the hon. Member refers is part of a modern apprenticeship scheme. The £95 per week is a training allowance which is national minimum wage exempt. Thurrock borough council is accredited as part of the modern apprenticeships scheme.

Modern apprenticeships are paid employment combined with the opportunity to train for jobs at craft, technician and management level. They are available in most sectors of industry and commerce and can provide lifelong career opportunities.

Apprenticeships offer candidates the opportunity to develop knowledge and expertise through on-the-job assessment. Many apprentices also attend college or training centres.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of each. [324415]

Mr. Thomas: It is not possible to provide the requested information without incurring disproportionate cost.

All such expenditure is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received of allegations that funds raised in the UK for non-governmental organisations operating in Gaza have been used to support the political activities of Hamas. [325658]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not received any such reports.

Sierra Leone: Female Genital Mutilation

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 739-40W, on Sierra Leone: overseas aid, what estimate he has made of the effect of the programme funded by his Department to improve the reproductive health of women in Sierra Leone on the level of female genital mutilation of women aged between 15 and 49 in that country. [325789]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development's (DFID) country programme in Sierra Leone has a Special Strategic Objective of reducing maternal mortality. The £16 million programme referred to contributes directly to the achievement of this objective through a significant contribution to the Government of Sierra Leone's Reproductive and Child Health Strategy.

My answer of 29 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 739-40W, sets out the specific activities which DFID undertakes in Sierra Leone in relation to female genital mutilation.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 739-40W, on Sierra Leone: overseas aid, what proportion of the £16 million his Department is providing for women's reproductive health in Sierra Leone is spent on reducing the incidence of female genital mutilation. [325795]

Mr. Thomas: My answer of 29 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 739-40W, sets out the specific activities which the Department for International Development (DFID) undertakes in Sierra Leone in relation to female genital mutilation.

The £16 million programme referred to focuses explicitly on improving reproductive health care for all women in the country. This supports the achievement of DFID's special strategic objective to reduce maternal mortality in Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone: Females

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent contacts officials of his Department based in Sierra Leone have had with the Bundu Women's Organisation. [325794]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has had no contact with the Bundu Women's Organisation in Sierra Leone.

HEALTH

Autism: Children

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statutory duties there are on participants in the commissioning process for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to take account of the needs of children with an autistic spectrum disorder. [325737]

Phil Hope: From 1 April 2008, local authorities and primary care trusts have a statutory duty to produce a joint strategic needs assessment to address the health care needs of their local populations to inform the strategic planning and commissioning process.

Under the new Statutory Guidance on Children's Trusts, issued on 22 March 2010, the Children's Trust Board becomes responsible from 1 April 2010 for producing the children and young people's plan (CYPP), a joint strategy which sets out how the partners of the Children's Trust Board will co-operate to improve the well-being of children and young people within the local area, working together to commission services to address local identified needs. Each plan is required to include an outline of the key actions, as identified by the needs assessment, planned to achieve the outcome for children and young people who:

have special educational needs within the meaning of section 312 of the Education Act; and/or

are disabled within the meaning of section 1 of the Disability Discrimination Act.

This would include listing the actions that will be taken to address the needs of children and young people with autistic spectrum disorder.

Cancer: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for cancer treatments in Shropshire County primary care trust. [325403]

Ann Keen: Statistics on average waiting times between decision to treat and treatment for cancer are not collected centrally.

The cancer waiting time standard of a maximum wait of 31 days from decision to treat, to first cancer treatment was introduced for all patients and all treatment modalities from December 2005. Statistics showing overall performance are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/HospitalWaitingTimesandListStatistics/CancerWaitingTimes/index.htm

The number and percentage of patients receiving first treatment for cancer within one month of decision to treat, for acute trusts in Shropshire, as at quarter 3 of 2009-10 is shown in the following table.

Trust	*Number of patients*	*Percentage of patients*
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	3	100
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	325	93.3

Notes:
1. Statistics on average waiting times are not collected centrally. Data shown relate to compliance with the two-month waiting time standard from urgent general practitioner referral for suspected cancer to first treatment.
2. Low number of cases are likely to be explained by the specialist nature of particular trusts which would not normally routinely treat cancer patients. Reported compliance is more prone to fluctuation where numbers are relatively low.

Source:
Cancer Waiting Times database.

Club Together Magazine

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Club Together magazine is funded by the National Health Service; and if he will make a statement. [325731]

Ann Keen: No. Club Together magazine is entirely funded and issued by Xafinity Paymaster. Club Together is a pensioner interest magazine issued to the pensioner members of a number of pension schemes, including the NHS Pension Scheme.

Croydon

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to the Croydon Central constituency, the effects of his Department's policies on that constituency since 2005. [325819]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. 93 per cent. of people nationally now rate the NHS as good or excellent. The NHS Constitution contains 25 rights and 14 pledges for patients and the public including new rights to be treated within 18-weeks, or be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks and an NHS health check every five years for those aged 40-74 years.

There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Croydon Central constituency.

For example:

Figures for January 2010 show that in Croydon primary care trust (PCT):

93 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18-weeks.

99 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18-weeks.

Between September 2001 and September 2009 the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 people within Croydon Central PCT has increased from 50.4 to 69.6.

In December 2009, at Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust, 98.3 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.

Between September 1997 and September 2009 the number of consultants at Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust increased from 79 to 121. Between September 1997 and September 2009 the estimated number of nurses increased from 730 to 1,279.

95.5 per cent. of urgent GP referrals to Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust with suspected cancer are seen by a specialist within two weeks of the referral.

Although statistical information is not available at a local level, Croydon Central will have also benefitted from national policies in other areas. For example:

Since 1997, gross current expenditure on personal social services has increased by around 70 per cent. in real terms with around 105,000 households now receiving intensive home care and 3,076 new extra care housing units—exceeding the original target of 1,500 new extra care units.

Other strategies currently being implemented are:

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Personal Care at Home Bill will guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people with the highest needs and help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence;

"Shaping the Future of Care Together Green Paper, published in July 2009, sets out a vision for a national care service for all adults in England which is fair, simple and affordable. The Department has consulted widely on this reform and is currently analysing the responses, which will feed into a White Paper later this year;

The National Carer's Strategy—"(Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities)—launched in 2008;

The first National Dementia Strategy was published in February 2009;

"Valuing People Now"—a three year strategy for people with learning disabilities published in January 2009; and

New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health—launched in December 2009—to maintain improvements in mental health services combined with a new cross-Government approach to promoting public mental health.

Since 1998, there are now 2.4 million fewer smokers in England as a result of the Government's comprehensive tobacco control strategy which has had a measurable impact on reducing smoking prevalence.

Child obesity levels are reducing due to the efforts of families across England, supported by the Government's obesity strategy. In 2008, 13.9 per cent. of children (aged two to 10) in England were classified as obese, compared with 17.3 per cent. in 2005.

Overall, life expectancy at birth for men has increased from 74.5 years (1995-1997 data) to 77.7 years (2006-08 data) while for women, life expectancy at birth has increased from 79.6 years (1995-97 data) to 81.9 years (2006-08 data).

Dental Services: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists operating in Shropshire there have been per 1,000 residents in each year since 1997. [325404]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested for all years.

The number of people per national health service dentist in Shropshire county primary care trust (PCT) and Telford and Wrekin PCT, as at 31 March 2001 to 2006, is available in annex F of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006" report. This information is not available for 1997 to 2000 as PCTs were not in existence in these years, so population data at PCT level are not available. However, the number of NHS dentists for these years have been estimated to match the 2001 PCT boundaries. These data are included in annex E of the report.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is available on the Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The number of dentists with NHS activity per 100,000 population during the years ending 31 March 2007, 2008 and 2009 are available in table G1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2008/09" report. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 19 August 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes any previously published work force figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

These published figures relate to a headcount and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 57W, on drugs: rehabilitation, what medications are used as pharmacological treatments for drug dependency; and what drug dependency each is designed to treat. [325786]

Gillian Merron: Pharmacological interventions are interventions that include prescribing for detoxification, stabilisation, maintenance and symptomatic relief of substance misuse as well as prescribing of medications to prevent relapse.

They are prescribed on an individual basis in conjunction with provision of a range of psychosocial interventions as agreed between treatment provider and an individual in their treatment care plan.

Recommended prescribing practices are outlined in "Drug misuse and dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management" (Department of Health 2007) and are supported by National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology appraisals. A copy has already been placed in the Library. "Drug misuse and dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management" (Department of Health 2007) also summarises the current NICE guidance on drug treatments for drug dependence.

Electronic Cigarettes

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to bring forward proposals to regulate the sale of e-cigarettes; what progress has been made in the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency consultation exercise on e-cigarettes; and if he will make a statement. [325654]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: 'A smokefree future: a comprehensive tobacco control strategy for England', published on 1 February 2010, sets out the Government's strategy for tobacco control and this included proposals for changes to the regulation of products containing nicotine. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) launched a full public consultation exercise alongside the publication of the strategy on whether and how to bring unlicensed nicotine containing products, such as electronic cigarettes, within the medicines licensing regime. Copies of the strategy and consultation document have been placed in the Library.

The consultation is ongoing until 4 May 2010 and the Government will take decisions about whether and how to regulate these products and timing once the consultation exercise has closed, responses to the consultation have been considered and risks and benefits of the options have been evaluated. The outcome of consultation will be published on the MHRA's website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what offers Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust has made to Dr. Kim Holt to resolve her grievance with the Trust; what agreement the Trust has sought from Dr. Holt in return; and what guidance his Department has given to *(a)* NHS London and *(b)* the Trust on steps to resolve the grievance; [325763]

(2) what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS has taken to implement the recommendations of the independent investigation undertaken on behalf of NHS London into the employment of Dr. Kim Holt by Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust; and if he will take steps to ensure full implementation of all recommendations in the report. [325764]

Ann Keen: The Department would expect national health service organisations to adhere to relevant employment legislation and best practice human resources. Disciplinary and grievance issues in the NHS are dealt with at a local level in line with local policies and procedures. Therefore questions should be referred directly to the chief executive of Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust.

Health Services: Isle of Man

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the negotiations between his Department's officials and the Government of the Isle of Man on the bilateral agreement on health services of 30 March 2010 included representatives of *(a)* the Ministry of Justice and *(b)* health ministries of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales; and if he will make a statement; [325817]

(2) whether the negotiations between his Department's officials and the government of the Isle of Man on the bilateral agreement on health services of 30 March 2010 relate to the whole of the United Kingdom or to England only; and if he will make a statement. [325818]

Gillian Merron: Negotiations, which were based on a United Kingdom wide approach, did not include representatives from the devolved Administrations, nor the Ministry of Justice. However, following negotiations, the Department of Health will be consulting with the devolved Administrations and the Ministry of Justice, before finalising the terms of any new reciprocal healthcare agreement with the Isle of Man.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on commissioning reports on the summary care record of University College London; how many such reports his Department has commissioned to date; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent report. [325751]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department initially commissioned an independent evaluation of the summary care record early adopter programme. This work, carried out by a team at University College London (UCL), ran between May 2007 and April 2008. It resulted in two published reports, the Summary Care Record Independent Evaluation, and Evaluation of Data Quality Standards

within the Summary Care Record. Both reports have been published and are available at:

www.ucl.ac.uk/dome/openlearning/research

Further research has been commissioned from UCL, to assess the implementation and impact of the summary care record and HealthSpace, and to illuminate ongoing learning and lessons as summary care records begin to be implemented more widely. The outcome of this work is currently undergoing quality assurance and peer review and is due for publication later this year.

The cost of the commissioned work is £272,200 for the first study and £723,400 for the current study, a total of £995,600.

Mental Health Services: Young People

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department takes to ensure that children with a dual diagnosis of a mental health problem and *(a)* a learning disability and *(b)* an autistic spectrum disorder are recorded (i) in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services commissioning process, (ii) in children and young people's plans and (iii) in children's health needs assessments. [325734]

Phil Hope: Each local Children and Young People's Plan must include an outline of key actions which specifically address the needs of children with disabilities. The Government published new Statutory Guidance on Children's Trusts on 22 March 2010 and make clear that in the case of children with autistic spectrum disorders (ASD) the plan could set out what arrangements are in place to commission services to meet the full range of their needs not just those relating to ASD.

'The Mental Health and Psychological Well-being of Children and Young People', Standard 9 of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services, stated that the commissioning and delivery of a comprehensive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) should include regular assessments of local need of children and young people in the locality who are vulnerable or at risk. A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

A CAMHS dataset, to further strengthen needs assessment and inform the strategic planning process, is currently in development. The dataset will provide information for local use in commissioning and delivering CAMHS.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there is an established national referral pathway to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for children with *(a)* mental health problems and *(b)* autistic spectrum disorders and co-occurring mental health problems. [325735]

Phil Hope: 'The Mental Health and Psychological Well-being of Children and Young People', Standard 9 of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services emphasised the need for clear pathways to be set out to show how the range of mental health needs of children and young people will be met. It is for commissioners and providers to develop local services to meet the needs of their populations informed by the National Service Framework and more recently, 'Keeping Children and Young People in Mind: The Government's Full Response to the Independent Review of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)', published in 2010. Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published clinical guidelines and technology appraisals which cover the care, treatment and support that children and young people with mental health disorders and their families or carers should be offered. These guidelines will inform the development of local clinical guidelines, care pathways and protocols.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services have a remit to address the needs of children with *(a)* a learning disability, *(b)* an autistic spectrum disorder, *(c)* an eating disorder and *(d)* a physical or sensory disability. [325772]

Phil Hope: "The Mental Health and Psychological Well-being of Children and Young People", Standard 9 of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services, published in 2004 set out the policy framework for a comprehensive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). A copy has already been placed in the Library. This includes the need for specialised services for the full range of mental disorders including complex needs in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate, including learning disabilities.

The children's service mapping exercise in England in 2007-08 provided information on CAMHS teams providing services to children and young people with a learning disability or an autistic spectrum disorder. The mapping found that 685 CAMHS teams supported autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) children and young people and their families. Of these 108 CAMHS teams reported providing targeted work for children and young people with ASD. Additionally of the 349 community paediatric services 193 (55 per cent.) ran ASD clinics. The mapping found a total of 722 CAMHS teams (69 per cent. of all teams) provided specialist learning disability care.

We do not collect information on the number of specialist CAMHS services providing services to address the needs of children with learning disability, ASD, eating disorder and a physical or sensory disability.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to issue guidance on the commissioning of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for vulnerable groups other than looked-after children. [325775]

Phil Hope: Guidance to support commissioners in playing their central role in securing improved outcomes for children, young people and their families "Securing better health for children and young people through world class commissioning: A guide to support delivery of Healthy lives, brighter futures: The strategy for children and young people's health" was published in 2009. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

In addition, guidance for commissioners on the requirements of public service agreement 12 indicator 4 on the extent to which local authorities and primary care trusts should work in partnership to commission a full range of early intervention services, delivered in

universal settings and through targeted services, for children experiencing mental health problem was published in 2009.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria his Department requires a comprehensive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service to meet. [325776]

Phil Hope: "The Mental Health and Psychological Well-being of Children and Young People", standard 9 of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services, published in 2004 set out the policy framework for a comprehensive child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS). Further information is set out in "Keeping Children and Young People in Mind: The Government's full response to the independent review of CAMHS" published in 2010. Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

Four proxy measures are being used to monitor progress on public service agreement 12 indicator 4 (emotional health and well-being of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)). These are:

the development and delivery of CAMHS for children and young people with learning disabilities;

appropriate accommodation and support for 16 to 17-year-olds;

availability of 24-hour cover to meet urgent mental health needs; and

joint commissioning of early intervention support.

Mentally Ill: Drugs

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in Shropshire have been prescribed anti-psychotic drugs in each year since 1997. [325413]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Information is held centrally on number of prescribed items written and dispensed, by primary care trust (PCT), and not on the number of people prescribed drugs.

Prescribing information by PCT is available only from February 2005; with September 2009 being the most recent month for which data is presently available. Shropshire is covered by two PCTs, Shropshire county PCT and Telford and Wrekin PCT. Figures for the two PCTs combined for the calendar years 2005 to 2009 have been set out in the following table. The data 2005 and 2009 will be for incomplete years.

Anti-psychotic drugs: British National Formulary (BNF) 4.2.1 and 4.2.2: Items prescribed in Shropshire county PCT and Telford and Wrekin PCT combined

	Number
2009[1]	42,357
2008	54,088
2007	49,666
2006	45,671
2005[2]	38,650

[1] Figures are for nine months, January to September inclusive
[2] Figures are for 11months, February to December inclusive

Definitions

Anti-psychotic drugs

Defined as those recorded in paragraphs 4.2.1 (antipsychotic drugs) and 4.2.2 (antipsychotic depot injections) of the BNF. The number of items is given for the two paragraphs combined.

ePrescribing Analysis and CosT (ePACT) data

This information was obtained from the ePACT system, which covers prescriptions prescribed by general practitioners, nurses, pharmacists and others in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom. For data at PCT level, prescriptions written by a prescriber located in a particular PCT but dispensed outside that PCT will be included in the PCT in which the prescriber is based. Prescriptions written in England but dispensed outside England are included. Prescriptions written in hospitals or clinics that are dispensed in the community, prescriptions dispensed in hospitals, dental prescribing and private prescriptions are not included in PACT data. It is important to note this as some BNF sections have a high proportion of prescriptions written in hospitals that are dispensed in the community. For example, BNF chapter 4, "Central Nervous System" has a fair proportion of items written in mental health clinics that are dispensed in the community—these prescriptions are not included in PACT data.

Prescription Items

Prescriptions are written on a prescription form known as an FP10. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item.

BNF Classifications

The Prescription Cost Analysis system uses the therapeutic classifications defined in BNF. No information on why a drug is prescribed is available and since drugs can be prescribed to treat more than one condition it is impossible to separate the different conditions that a drug was prescribed for.

Mentally Ill: Nottinghamshire

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 in Nottinghamshire *(a)* in total and *(b)* in secure wards; and what the equivalent figures were in 2005. [325450]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of people who spent time formally detained in a national health service hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 during the year has been set out in the following table. This includes people who were detained in hospital during the year but whose formal admission was in a previous year.

These figures are taken from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust's mental health minimum dataset annual returns. They exclude patients detained only in high secure beds at Rampton hospital, or by the trust's child and adolescent mental health service. The figures cannot be broken down between secure and other wards, and equivalent information is not available for independent hospitals in Nottinghamshire.

Number of in-patients detained in hospital for Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust 2005-06 and 2008-09

	Number of people formally detained
2005-06	683
2008-09	628

Notes:

1. Each person is counted only once. If a person was detained more than once in a year they are still counted once only.
2. "Formally detained" refers to people who spent at least one day formally retained in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 (or previous related legislation).
3. Background information for the Mental Health Act 1983 can be found via the link for the Mental Health Act Code of Practice at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4005756
4. The results shown in the answer are published and available online at: www.mhmdsonline.ic.nhs.uk
5. The Mental Health Bulletin 2003-2009 Chapter 2 of the Mental Health Bulletin provides commentary on these statistics: www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/mhbm8mds0809

Source:

Mental Health Minimum Dataset annual returns

Midwives: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives have been employed by Shropshire NHS Trust in each year since 1997. [325405]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The number of registered midwives employed by the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust in each year since 1997 has been set out in the following table:

NHS hospital and community health services: Registered midwives in the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust, as at 30 September each year

	Headcount
1997	194
1998	208
1999	210
2000	209
2001	209
2002	225
2003	237
2004	232
2005	249
2006	228
2007	234
2008	236
2009	217

Notes:
1. Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust was formed in 2003 from a complete merger of Princess Royal Hospital NHS Trust and Royal Shrewsbury Hospitals NHS Trust. Figures from 1997-2003 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.
2. *Data Quality:* The Information Centre for Health and Social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care: Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Minoxidil

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with Pfizer on its decision to transfer the production of Minoxidil to another plant; and what steps he is taking to ensure that the supply of Minoxidil to NHS patients is maintained during the transfer. [325726]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None. However, departmental officials have had communication with Pfizer on this matter.

Patients: Death

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the most recent hospital standardised mortality ratio for each NHS hospital trust, ranked from highest to lowest. [325727]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Hospital standardised mortality ratios (HSMRs) for every non-specialist acute national health service trust in England have been published each month on the NHS Choices website at www.nhs.uk since April 2009. The hospital comparison features of NHS Choices allows the list to be sorted by a range of elements, including by HSMR banding and the Care Quality Commission's Quality of Care indicator.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to monitor hospital standardised mortality ratios in each NHS hospital trust. [325728]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Hospital standardised mortality ratios (HSMRs) for each acute hospital trust in England are published on the NHS Choices website and are updated regularly. The Care Quality Commission has an ongoing programme of review of HSMRs, alongside a range of other data, such as readmission rates, infection rates and reported incidents, as well as information from inspections, the public and other organisations, as part of its system for the registration of national health service trusts.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism the Care Quality Commission uses to monitor mortality rates in NHS hospital trusts. [325729]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has looked closely at the mortality rates of every trust in England when assessing its application for registration. The CQC will continue to look at mortality rates as part of ongoing monitoring and compliance of trusts' registration.

The CQC has advised us that it calculates standardised mortality ratios using hospital episode statistics data.

In addition to this, the CQC receives copies of mortality alerts from the Dr. Foster Unit at Imperial College each month.

The CQC has an established surveillance programme of generating and acting upon mortality outlier alerts for specific clinical groups. At the point of receiving an alert, the CQC undertakes a rigorous range of statistical and other analyses and brings together clinical advice and local knowledge to make decisions about the course of action to be taken.

Prescriptions: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in Shropshire have bought a prescription pre-pay certificate in each year since 1997. [325411]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: National Health Service Help with Health Costs (NHS HwHC) do not hold pre-payment certificate information at primary care trust or county level. The information is available at national level for England which has been set out in the following table.

NHS HwHC also do not hold records for the number of pre-payment certificates sold since 1997. Details of certificates issued are retained for seven years. The information available covers April 2003 to February 2010.

Number of prescription pre-payment certificates issued in England

	Duration of certificates issued			
Financial year	*Three-month*	*Four-month*	*12-month*	*Total*
2003-04	—	572,863	461,614	1,034,477
2004-05	—	491,576	517,882	1,009,458
2005-06	—	638,413	524,232	1,162,645
2006-07	—	650,782	520,449	1,171,231
2007-08	474,570	176,503	593,507	1,244,580
2008-09	730,592	—	652,870	1,383,462
2009-10	648,518	—	588,820	1,237,338
Total	1,853,680	2,530,137	3,859,374	8,243,191

Notes:
1. 2009-10 only covers 11 months as March 2010 data are not yet available.
2. Between 2004 and June 2007, pre-payment certificates were available to cover a period of four months or 12 months. Since 1 July 2007 the four-month pre-payment certificate has been replaced with certificates covering three months.
3. The summary information used is available only by financial year.
Source:
Summary of information provided from NHS HwHC prescription pre-payment certificate database.

Prosthetics: Ex-servicemen

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding is being made available to NHS Artificial Limb and Appliance Centres to meet the extension of provision to veterans of earlier conflicts. [325814]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Funding for prosthetic and orthotic care and services is provided within the NHS budget and allocated through local determination by individual primary care trusts (PCTs). The current operating framework for the national health service requires commissioners to take account of military personnel, their families and veterans when commissioning services in their area. It is for PCTs in partnership with local stakeholders, including practice based commissioners, local government and the public to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of prosthetic services for former service personnel.

On 24 March 2010, up to £10 million of funding to research concerning the management of disability after acute trauma in a military or civilian context was launched through the National Institute of Health Research, Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre. This includes research for people needing physical or psychological rehabilitation following trauma. Further information about the research funding can be found at:

www.hta.ac.uk/news/newsitem240310.shtml

Social Services: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are used to *(a)* apportion the costs of providing care to people with chronic medical conditions causing disability between the NHS and social services and *(b)* estimate expenditure on such costs in respect of those who assist such people with (i) mobility, (ii) attendance and (iii) other care. [325555]

Phil Hope: Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006, provides the legal framework to enable health and social services to integrate health related functions through a number of partnership arrangements. These include the establishment of pooled budgets for specific client groups and partners to a pooled budget are required to agree how costs are apportioned within the partnership, as well as the level of contribution each partner will make.

Information on the health and social care costs for those who assist people with chronic health conditions is not available centrally. The National Carers' Strategy identified the funding that was available within primary care trust (PCT) baselines to improve support for carers. This includes an additional £150 million that would be given to PCTs to provide carer breaks over 2009-10 (£50 million) and 2010-11 (£100 million).

Swine Flu: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in Shropshire have been diagnosed with swine influenza in each of the last 12 months. [325410]

Gillian Merron: Data on the precise number of swine flu cases in a particular area are not available.

However, the Department does have data on the number of antivirals dispensed through the National Pandemic Flu Service (NPFS). Shropshire is covered by two primary care trusts (PCTs), Shropshire county PCT and Telford and Wrekin PCT. Figures for these PCTs show that between 23 July 2009 and 11 February 2010:

7,747 residents in Shropshire County PCT were authorised antivirals; and

6,619 residents in Telford and Wrekin PCT were authorised antivirals.

These figures only refer to antiviral authorisations through the NPFS since its launch on 23 July 2009 and do not include any that may have been authorised via other routes such as general practitioners.

Antivirals distributed prior to this time were distributed through normal primary care routes and by the Health Protection Agency; the data are still being collated.

CABINET OFFICE

Public Sector: Contracts

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many public service contracts were awarded to companies registered outside the UK in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [324311]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

Figures for public contracts reported to OGC above the EU threshold for 2008 indicate that over 95 per cent. were awarded to UK registered companies.

Social Investment Wholesale Bank

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with which projects the Government are piloting social impact bonds; and for how long in each case. [325810]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The Budget announced its support for the first social impact bond (SIB) pilots to help investment in long-term initiatives and support preventative action. The pilots are at different stages of development. The MOJ pilot will aim to reduce reoffending rates in HMP Peterborough and the pilot will last for six years. CLG are working with Leeds city council and NHS Leeds to enable them to use a SIB approach to reduce health and social cares costs among older people. Given this work is at an early stage, the timeframe has not been set. Similarly Bradford metropolitan district council are considering applying this model as part of their involvement in the Government's Total Place programme. Again, no timeframe has yet been set.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Leicestershire

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons Leicestershire county council's bid for funding from Building Schools for the Future was not recommended by Partnerships for Schools in the most recent funding round; and on what date his Department wrote to Leicestershire county council to inform them of these reasons. [325813]

Mr. Coaker: Partnerships for Schools (PfS), as the delivery agent for Building Schools for the Future (BSF), is responsible for discussions with local authorities about applications to join the BSF programme. PfS wrote to Leicestershire county council on 8 March 2010 to provide feedback on why the council would not yet be invited to join.

Local authorities are prioritised on the need for BSF investment but must also demonstrate that they are ready and able, and have all the elements in place to deliver their BSF project. As well as assessing submissions to enter on a case-by-case basis, bids are also compared against each other so that the most ready are selected.

The assessment of Leicestershire's county council, "Readiness to Deliver" submission concluded that further work is needed in some key areas before the authority can be deemed ready to enter BSF.

Children's Workforce Development Council: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department allocated to the Children's Workforce Development Council for *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07, *(d)* 2008-09 and *(e)* 2009-10. [322802]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 18 March 2010]:* The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) was established in 2005. There was therefore no funding allocation for the 2004-05 financial year. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) funding allocations for each of CWDC's first three financial years, when it was an employer-led workforce reform body were; 2005-06, £960,000; 2006-07, £31,921,000 million and 2007-08, £55,181,000 million. The funding allocations for the next two years, when CWDC became an executive non departmental public body of the DCSF and experienced significant expansion to its remitted activities were; 2008-09, £82,454,000 million and 2009-10, £108,228,000 million.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor spent on interior design in relation to office refurbishments undertaken in each of the last five years. [324671]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families financial system does not hold information on the amount of spend incurred purely for interior design as a separate cost from other construction management and design fees.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what records his Department maintains of the reimbursable expenses paid to its special advisers. [325117]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Records of expenses paid to the Department's special advisers are kept on the Department's Resourcing Management System which was introduced in November 2009, and previously on the Department's financial system, IFIS.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on *(a)* ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305511]

Mr. Coaker: In the last three years for which figures are available, this Department and its predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills, spent the following on *(a)* ministerial photoshoots:

	£
2006-07	2949.88
2007-08	2614.4
2008-09	1362.73

and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear:

	£
2006-07	104,091.89
2007-08	74,231.92
2008-09	89,099.21

Departmental Taxis

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessors have travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302709]

Mr. Coaker: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) was established under the machinery of Government on 28 June 2007, therefore the response covers its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills (DFES) which was established on 8 June 2001.

Accounting records are not available for mileage covered by taxis for both Ministers and Officials.

No taxi expenditure has been recorded against Ministers use of taxis within the DCSF's accounting system or its predecessor the DFES. However, the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) an executive agency of the Department for Transport supplies official cars for Ministers during the course of their official duties. Unfortunately, GCDA is only able to supply data for the latest financial year of 2008-09. Data for earlier years are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Due to the accounting system used by the Department prior to 2004 only being able to hold a number of charges under one account code of "travel and subsistence" individual charges were not specific to the type of travel.

£

Financial years	*Ministers official car costs*	*Officials taxi costs*
2009-10	17,679	341,428.16
2008-09	491,924	81,056.00
2007-08	—	67,596.00
2006-07	—	95,382.00
2007-06	—	51,749.00
2006-05	—	564.90

Expenditure, however, has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of "Managing Public Money" and the Treasury handbook on "regularity and propriety".

Free School Meals: A-Levels

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals at *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* all mainstream maintained schools achieved three A-levels at A grade in the last year for which figures are available. [318470]

Mr. Coaker: The information available is provided in the following table:

Number and proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals at (a) comprehensive[1] and (b) all maintained mainstream schools[1] achieving three or more A grades at GCE/Applied A level or Double Award in 2008/09

	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals achieving three or more A grades at GCE/Applied A level or Double Award	*Proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals achieving three or more A grades at GCE/Applied A level or Double Award*
Comprehensive schools	179	3.5
All maintained mainstream schools	232	4.1

[1] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

Source:
National Pupil database (2008/09 Revised Data)

The figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2002) in maintained schools only who were eligible for free school meals. The figures do not include the achievement of students in Further Education Sector Colleges previously eligible for free school meals.

GCE A-Level: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 1088W, on free school meals: mathematics, if he will provide the information from the earliest year in the last 30 years for which data relating to ethnicity and eligibility for free school meals is available. [318420]

Mr. Coaker: Full information for the whole cohort of A-level students is not available, because the information comes from two distinct sources. The information the Department has readily available is for schools.

In the 2002-03 academic year, the number of white males eligible for free school meals attending maintained[1] schools and non maintained special schools who achieved an A grade in GCE A-Level further mathematics was less than five. The number of white females eligible for free school meals attending maintained[1] schools and non-maintained special schools who achieved an A grade in GCE A-level further mathematics was also less than five. The exact figures cannot be given to preserve confidentiality.

[1] Maintained Schools including City Technology Colleges

GCSE and GCE A-level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of comprehensive schools did not enter any students for *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* biology GCSE in the last year for which figures are available. [304901]

Mr. Coaker: Of the 2,741 comprehensive schools published in the 2009 Achievement and Attainment Tables that have at least one pupil on roll at the end of Key Stage 4:

1,296 (47.3 per cent.) entered no pupils for GCSE physics.

1,302 (47.5 per cent.) entered no pupils for GCSE chemistry

1,247 (45.5 per cent.) entered no pupils for GCSE biology

The Government have introduced a statutory entitlement for all pupils in maintained schools[1] to be able to study at least two science GCSEs, specifically this includes core and additional science or the three separate science GCSEs of physics, chemistry and biology.

[1] Not including Academies and City Technology Colleges.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools achieved GCSE results above the national average in the most recent period for which figures are available; and how many such schools in *(a)* Leicester, *(b)* the east midlands and *(c)* England are scheduled to be closed in 2010. [312228]

Mr. Coaker: In maintained schools in England in 2009, 50.7 per cent. of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieved five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C or the equivalent, including English and mathematics GCSEs.

The following table counts the number of schools performing above this average.

	Leicester*	East Midlands	England
Number of maintained schools performing above average	7	109	1,436
of which have been approved for closure in 2010	0	0	1

Notes:
1. The seven schools in Leicester are included in the count of schools in east midlands, which are included in the England count.
2. The school approved for closure is in Rochdale local authority and is to address an issue of surplus places there.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of eligible pupils received five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in *(a)* local authority schools and *(b)* academies where the per capita spend per pupil was (i) up to £4,500, (ii) from £4,501 to £5,000, (iii) from £5,001 to £5,500 and *(d)* more than £5,500 in the most recent year for which figures are available. [312790]

Mr. Coaker: The following tables provide a breakdown of the number and percentage of pupils achieving five or more A* to C grades in their GCSEs by the end of key stage 4, banded by expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained secondary schools and academies respectively.

Number and percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving five GCSEs at grade A to C, excluding equivalents, including English and maths GCSEs, banded by expenditure[1, 2] per pupil[3] in authority maintained secondary schools*

Expenditure based on cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 10 March 2010

Expenditure per pupil[3]	Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C, excluding equivalents, including English and maths GCSEs[4]	Percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C, excluding equivalents, including English and maths GCSEs[4]
Less than or equal to £4,500	112,706	60.8
More than £4,500 and less than or equal to £5,000	87,247	51.7
More than £5,000 and less than or equal to £5,500	37,604	42.1
More than £5,500	36,697	34.8

[1] School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.
[2] Total expenditure is based upon the financial year 2008-09.
[3] Pupil numbers include all those pupils attending maintained establishments and are drawn from the 2009 DCSF Annual Schools Census.
[4] Including attempts and achievements in previous academic years
Notes:
1. These figures cover only maintained schools and only those for which both 2008-09 financial data and 2009 academic achievement data are available.
2. The number of schools within each banding (ascending) are 934, 857, 479 and 686 respectively.
Source:
Financial data are taken from local authorities' 2008-09 Children, Schools and Families Outturn Statements (formally section 52) submitted to the DCSF while pupil numbers are drawn from the DCSF January 2009 Schools Census. GCSE details are from the Achievement and Attainment Tables (AAT).

Number and percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving five A to C grades at GCSE, excluding equivalents, including English and maths GCSEs, banded by expenditure[1] per pupil in academies[2]*

Expenditure[1] per pupil	Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C, excluding equivalents, including English and maths GCSEs[3]	Percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C, excluding equivalents, including English and maths GCSEs[4]
Less than or equal to £4,500	0	0.0
More than £4,500 and less than or equal to £5,000	972	42.3
More than £5,000 and less than or equal to £5,500	1,400	30.4
More than £5,500	4,308	33.6

[1] Academy allocations include a VAT grant and a Local Authority Central Services Equivalent Grant (LACSEG), local authority maintained schools do not receive these grants. Academies receive a VAT grant because they incur VAT on purchases and services, whereas local authority maintained schools in general do not or can reclaim it. LACSEG is paid to academies to enable them to purchase/provide services normally funded and provided to maintained schools from the local authority's central budget, which an academy does not have access to.
[2] The number of schools within each banding (ascending) are 1, 11, 29 and 81 respectively.
[3] Including attempts and achievements in previous academic years.
Source:
GCSE details are from the Achievement and Attainment Tables (AAT).

The Government and local authorities allocate significant additional funds to schools that support deprived pupils, who tend to achieve less well than their more advantaged peers. This is reflected in the data. It remains a high Government priority, as set out in "Investing for the future, protecting the front line: school funding 2011-13" (published on 15 March 2010), to ensure that additional funds go towards children who need extra support to reach their potential, so that the gap between the attainment of disadvantaged children and the rest continues to narrow. Further, many local authorities choose to give additional funding to schools based on low attainment or low prior attainment.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who gained five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics did so by passing a qualification equivalent to one or more GCSEs in 2009. [315530]

Mr. Coaker: In 2009, out of the 316,050 pupils at the end of key stage 4 who achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics (including equivalents), 12,170 did so by passing a qualification equivalent to one or more GCSEs.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils obtaining five GCSEs *(a)* at grades A* to C and *(b)* at grades A* to C including English and mathematics also received an equivalent qualification worth (i) four GCSEs and (ii) two GCSEs in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [316170]

Mr. Coaker: The requested figures are given in the following table.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieving 5+ GCSEs at grade A-C or the equivalent and at least one:*					
Qualification[1] equivalent[2] to two GCSEs	7,428	11,069	38,243	85,935	128,687
Qualification equivalent[2] to four GCSEs	54,489	70,454	73,308	56,782	72,467
Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieving 5+ GCSEs at grade A-C or the equivalent including English and maths GCSE and at least one:*					
Qualification[1] equivalent[2] to two GCSEs	6,302	8,632	26,716	55,506	78,802
Qualification equivalent[2] to four GCSEs	28,660	37,040	38,087	28,329	34,840

[1] Other than a GCSE double award.
[2] Equivalent qualifications counted have been passed but not necessarily at the level of A*-C.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* maintained schools (a) sat GCSEs, excluding equivalents in English, English literature, history, at least two sciences, a modern language and mathematics and (b) obtained grade C or higher in each subject in 2009. [318159]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is provided in the following table:

GCSE excluding equivalents results[1] for pupils[2] who sat English, English literature, history, at least two sciences, a modern language and mathematics in 2009

	Number of pupils entered	*Percentage of pupils entered*	*Number of pupils achieving grade C or above*	*Percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving grade C or above*
Comprehensive schools	72,117	13.9	45,304	8.7
Maintained schools[3,4]	84,706	14.6	55,948	9.7

[1] Revised data.
[2] Figures are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.
[3] Includes pupils attending all maintained mainstream schools including Academies and City Technology Colleges.
[4] Figures for comprehensive schools are included in those for maintained schools.
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* maintained schools sat English, English literature and mathematics GCSE examinations, excluding equivalents in 2009; and how many and what proportion of such pupils obtained grade C or above in each subject. [318160]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is provided in the following table:

GCSE excluding equivalents results[1] for pupils[2] who sat English, English literature and mathematics—2009

	Number of pupils entered	*Percentage of pupils entered as a proportion of all pupils*	*Number of pupils achieving grade C or above*	*Percentage of pupils achieving grade C or above*
Comprehensive schools	403,511	77.7	229,009	56.8
Maintained schools[3]	443,485	77.9	258,689	58.3

[1] Revised data.
[2] Figures are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.
[3] Includes pupils attending all maintained mainstream schools including Academies and City Technology Colleges.
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 309W, on GCSE A-level, how many white *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls eligible for free school meals achieved three A grades at A-level in the earliest year for which figures are available. [319075]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* 2003 is the earliest year of which figures are available.

36 (3.8 per cent.) white British boys and 58 (4.7 per cent.) white British girls eligible for free school meals achieved three or more A grades at A-level. Percentages indicated are of white British students eligible for free school meals of the appropriate gender who were entered for at least one GCE/VCE/Applied A-Level and Double Awards in 2003.

The figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2002) in maintained schools only who were eligible for free school meals. The figures do not include the achievement of students in further education sector colleges previously eligible for free school meals.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* maintained schools who achieved at least five grades A* to C at GCSE achieved one or more such grades in business studies, music technology, child development, hairdressing, construction, health and social care, sociology, media, travel and tourism, performing arts and hospitality and catering in each of the last five years. [319684]

Mr. Coaker: To answer this would go over the disproportionate cost threshold.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils following a GCSE course achieved a B grade or higher in both GCSE mathematics and English excluding equivalent qualifications in 2009. [319938]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the following table for the academic year 2008/09.

The number and percentage of pupils[1] at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving Grade B or higher in both GCSE Mathematics and English, excluding equivalents, in2008/09[2]

	Pupils achieving Grade B or higher in both GCSE Maths and English, excluding equivalents.	
	Number	Percentage
2008/09	155,446	26.8

[1] Pupils attending maintained schools only including City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[2] Data is revised.
Note:
AS Levels not included.
Source:
National Pupil Database

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils in *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* independent schools in each constituency were entered for GCSE examinations in (i) physics, (ii) biology and (iii) chemistry in the latest year for which figures are available; [324548]

(2) how many and what proportion of 16 to 18-year-old candidates in each constituency entered for level 3 qualifications at least equivalent to one GCE or Applied GCE A-level in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* all maintained schools and further education sector colleges and *(c)* all independent schools achieved three or more A grades at GCE/Applied GCE A-level and double awards in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [324549]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested on the number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 attending *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* independent schools entered for GCSEs in (i) physics, (ii) biology and (iii) chemistry by parliamentary constituency in 2008/09 has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The information available on the proportion and number of 16-18 year old pupils in each parliamentary constituency entered for GCE/Applied GCE A-Levels and Double Awards in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* all maintained schools and further education sector colleges and *(c)* all independent schools who achieved three or more A grades at GCE/Applied GCE A-Level and Double Awards in 2005/06 and 2008/09 has been placed in the House of Commons Library. Information for earlier years can only be produced at disproportionate cost.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in receipt of free school meals were entered for GCSE examinations in each subject in the most recent year for which figures are available. [318675]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* The requested information on the number of pupils in receipt of a free school meal is not available. The number and proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals who were entered for GCSE examinations in each subject in 2009 is shown in the following table.

The number and percentage of pupils entered for GCSEs in each subject in 2009 by free school meal eligibility

	Number of FSM pupils entered	Percentage of all FSM pupils at the end of key stage 4	Number of non-FSM pupils entered	Percentage of all non-FSM pupils at the end of key stage 4
Biological science	3,525	4.7	67,757	13.4
Chemistry	2,985	4.0	64,334	12.8
Physics	2,954	4.0	64,231	12.7
Core science	53,925	72.5	378,560	75.1
Additional science	30,470	41.0	275,635	54.7
Additional applied science	6,965	9.4	39,902	7.9
Single award science	53,927	72.5	378,603	75.1
English	67,351	90.5	487,358	96.6
Maths	68,130	91.6	489.359	97.0
Statistics	6,112	8.2	63,908	12.7
Design and technology and electronics	1,028	1.4	10,583	2.1
Design and technology and food technology	7,003	9.4	58,591	11.6
Design and technology and graphics	5,498	7.4	49,547	9.8
Design and technology and resistant materials technology	7,889	10.6	60,360	12.0
Design and technology and systems control	436	0.6	5,325	1.1
Design and technology and textiles technology	4,551	6.1	34,133	6.8
Office technology	3,465	4.7	28,372	5.6
Information technology	3,791	5.1	46,167	9.2
Business studies	5,696	7.7	63,969	12.7
Home economics	3,401	4.6	19,158	3.8
Geography	11.049	14.9	137,972	27.4
History	13,466	18.1	160,715	31.9
Music	2,951	4.0	39,641	7.9
Art and design	17.714	23.8	135,362	26.8
Fine art	4,019	5.4	36,876	7.3
English literature	44,942	60.4	399,628	79.2
Drama	8,124	10.9	70,021	13.9
Media, film and television studies	7,314	9.8	52,715	10.5
Physical education	10,314	13.9	117,719	23.3
Religious studies	16,202	21.8	137,223	27.2
French	10,273	13.8	130,311	25.8
German	3,098	4.2	58,014	11.5
Spanish	3,294	4.4	42,685	8.5
Italian	171	0.2	2,615	0.5
Arabic	676	0.9	751	0.1
Bengali	581	0.8	598	0.1
Chinese	109	0.1	1,168	0.2
Dutch	209	0.3	211	0.0
Gujarati	38	0.1	718	0.1
Japanese	48	0.1	797	0.2
Modern Greek	25	0.0	346	0.1
Modern Hebrew	12	0.0	230	0.0
Panjabi	111	0.1	760	0.2
Persian	144	0.2	253	0.1
Polish	61	0.1	2,021	0.4
Portuguese	254	0.3	938	0.2

The number and percentage of pupils entered for GCSEs in each subject in 2009 by free school meal eligibility

	Number of FSM pupils entered	Percentage of all FSM pupils at the end of key stage 4	Number of non-FSM pupils entered	Percentage of all non-FSM pupils at the end of key stage 4
Russian	62	0.1	871	0.2
Turkish	523	0.7	624	0.1
Urdu	1,248	1.7	2,747	0.5

Notes:
1. Figures are revised
2. Figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained schools
Source:
National Pupil Database

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of students eligible for free school meals gained a GCSE in Latin at each grade in the latest year for which figures are available. [324174]

Mr. Coaker: In 2009, the number and percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who gained a GCSE at each grade in Latin by free school meal (FSM) eligibility is shown in the following table.

Grade	Number of FSM pupils achieving grades	Percentage of all FSM pupils	Number of non-FSM pupils achieving grades	Percentage of all non-FSM pupils
A*	13	0.0	830	0.2
A	9	0.0	723	0.1
B	5	0.0	498	0.1
C	8	0.0	444	0.1
D	12	0.0	245	0.0
E	[1]	[1]	89	0.0
F	[1]	[1]	26	0.0
G	0	0.0	11	0.0

[1] Figures suppressed due to low numbers.
Notes:
1. Figures relate to pupils in maintained schools at the end of key stage 4.
2. Percentages are based on all FSM/non-FSM pupils at the end of key stage 4, not just those who attempt a GCSE in the relevant subject.
Source:
National Pupil Database.

GCSE: Humanities and Languages

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mainstream maintained secondary schools entered no pupils for a GCSE in *(a)* a modern foreign language, *(b)* history and *(c)* geography in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009. [321218]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* The number of open maintained mainstream secondary schools that entered no pupils for GCSEs in the specified subjects is shown in the following table.

	(i) 2007	(ii) 2008	(iii) 2009
(a) a modern foreign language	25	24	24
(b) history	59	59	53
(c) geography	83	95	121

International Baccalaureate

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of students who completed an International Baccalaureate course did not achieve a diploma in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [325305]

Mr. Coaker: 3,316 students aged 16-18 completed an International Baccalaureate (IB) course in all schools and FE colleges in 2008/09. Of those, 441 (13 per cent.) did not achieve a diploma.

National Curriculum Tests

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children achieved *(a)* the national standard and *(b)* beyond expectation in each Key Stage 1 subject in (i) England and (ii) each London borough in each year since 1997. [325567]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 6 April 2010]:* The number of pupils achieving the national standard and performing beyond the national standard in each key stage 1 subject in each London borough in 1997 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The remaining information requested, including the proportion of pupils achieving national standards and performing beyond expectations has been placed in the House Libraries. For ease of reference links to the information showing the proportion of pupils achieving national standards and beyond expectations for 1999 to 2009 are provided as follows:

1999

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000088/index.shtml

2000

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000202/index.shtml

2001

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000344/index.shtml

Ofsted: Operating Costs

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost was of Ofsted's operations in the last year for which figures are available; and what targets there are for Ofsted to reduce its expenditure in the next three years. [324573]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, will write to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Library.

Pupil Numbers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils there were in maintained *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools in each (i) constituency and (ii) local authority area in (A) 1997 and (B) 2009. [324728]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Pupils: Bullying

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many incidents of *(a)* bullying between pupils and *(b)* verbal and physical abuse of school staff by pupils were recorded in schools in each of the last six months. [325799]

Mr. Coaker: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect this information from schools.

Schools

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools there were in each (i) constituency and (ii) local authority area in (A) 1997 and (B) 2009. [324731]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Schools: Broadband

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has provided to schools in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire for broadband services in each of the last five years; how much funding he plans to provide in future years; and if he will make a statement. [321047]

Mr. Coaker: Funding for broadband services in schools is made available predominantly via the Harnessing Technology Grant. This is paid by the Department to local authorities through the standards fund. It is not possible to identify the proportion of the grant that is used by schools to purchase broadband services, however we do have figures for the overall Harnessing Technology Grant for the latest three financial years:

Harnessing Technology Grant allocation: England

Financial year	*£ million*
2008-09	201
2009-10	201
2010-11	201
Total 2008-11	603

The available figures on the amount of the Harnessing Technology Grant paid specifically to the Gloucestershire local authority for each of the three years in the current spending period is set out in the following table:

Harnessing Technology Grant allocation to Gloucestershire

Financial year	*£*
2008-09	2,876,557
2009-10	2,721,194
2010-11	2,563,799
Total 2008-11	8,161,550

However, these figures can only be provided as an indication as it is not possible to extrapolate from this the spending on broadband provision in particular. Additionally, the Harnessing Technology Grant will not be the total ICT spend, as schools are free to use money from other sources on technological services and infrastructure.

Schools: Radicalism

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any school has *(a)* had public funding withdrawn and *(b)* been closed consequent on identification of links between that school and extremism in the last 10 years. [325125]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Maintained schools are funded by their local authority and decisions about funding for pupils of compulsory school age and for early years provision are a matter for local authorities. Some independent schools are funded by local authorities for the delivery of early years' provision. Maintained school closures are a matter for the relevant local authority and independent school proprietors make their own operational decisions. The Department does not routinely collect information about the withdrawal of funding by local authorities from their schools or early years providers and we have no record of instances where public funding has been withdrawn as a result of links between a school and extremism. Every year a number of maintained and independent schools close but the Department does not collect the reasons for closure.

Schools: Sports

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps his Department has taken to improve the provision of sport in schools in Leeds North West constituency. [319506]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department funds a national network of 450 school sport partnerships to increase the quality and quantity of PE and Sport in schools.

The following table sets out the amount of funding that schools in Leeds North West constituency received over the last three years. Funding increased substantially in 2008-09 with the introduction of the national network of competition managers, set up to work with school sport partnerships on inter-school sport.

	(£)
2007-08	156,022
2008-09	506,349
2009-10	532,224
Total	1,194,595

Science: GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which secondary schools did not enter any pupils for GCSE *(a)* biology, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* physics in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [317220]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 February 2010]:* A list of the requested schools has been placed in the House Libraries.

The Government have introduced a statutory entitlement for all pupils in maintained schools' to be able to study

at least two science GCSEs, specifically this includes core and additional science or the three separate science GCSEs of physics, chemistry and biology.

[1] Not including academies and city technology colleges.

Sixth Form Education: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in Torbay constituency received less funding for sixth form places in their final yearly allocations for 2009-10 than was indicated in their provisional funding figures. [312859]

Mr. Iain Wright: All schools (and, indeed, all other providers) have been funded in their 2009/10 allocations to at least the level of recruitment indicated in their provisional funding figures, as discussed with the LSC in early March 2009.

On 31 March last year, the Department made an interim allocation consistent with the budget set out in the LSC's annual statement of priorities in November 2008. Providers were therefore notified of a minimum working budget by the 31 March 2009 with which to plan for the forthcoming academic year.

These allocation figures differed from the provisional funding figures that providers had discussed with the LSC at the beginning of March, which were meant to be indicative of the likely level of demand coming through from young people. It was clear that this was well above the budget published the previous November. However, discussions were ongoing across Government at that time on what extra financial support was needed to provide for the increased learner demand providers indicated they could deliver. This additional funding was found and announced in Budget 2009, which provided for a further 54,500 learners in 2009/10 than planned. All providers were notified of their revised allocation, to at least the level of recruitment indicated in their provisional funding figures, as soon as was possible following Budget 2009.

The following tables set out the funding and learner allocations for the sixth forms in the Torbay constituency. All the sixth forms learner allocations matched the provisional allocations and all the funding allocations increased from the 31 March 2009 allocations post Budget 2009. Four of the sixth forms saw increases on their provisional allocation in their final funding allocations. Two schools[1] did however see slight reductions from their provisional allocations, on account of the necessary changed approach in the application of transitional protection between the two allocation notices. The reductions were 1.5 per cent. and 0.4 per cent. of their provisional allocation. This was to avoid volatility in the data between years producing significantly different out turns in funding levels.

Torbay constituency provisional and final allocation figures

	Provisional funding allocations for 2009/10 (£ million)	*Allocations sent on 31 March 2009 (£ million)*	*Final allocations for 2009/10 (£ million)*
Torquay Grammar School for Girls	1.135	1.096	[1]1.118 (1.5% reduction)
Churston Ferrers Grammar School	1.230	1.196	1.244
Westlands School and Technology	1.254	1.219	1.291
Paignton Community and Sports College	1.105	1.060	1.125
St. Cuthbert Mayne School	0.751	0.716	0.760
Torquay Boys Grammar School	1.568	1.473	[1]1.562 (0.4% reduction)

	Provisional learner allocations for 2009/10	*Allocations sent on 31 March 2009*	*Final learner allocations for 2009/10*
Torquay Grammar School for Girls	253	244	253
Churston Ferrers Grammar School	258	248	258
Westlands School and Technology	245	236	245
Paignton Community and Sports College	238	229	238
St. Cuthbert Mayne School	158	152	158
Torquay Boys Grammar School	320	308	320

Special Educational Needs: Inspections

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* skills and *(b)* qualifications are required of a person who is inspecting provision for deaf children as part of an Ofsted inspection. [321194]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, will write to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many inspections by Ofsted of schools with provision for deaf children in 2009 included on the inspection team someone with an expertise in deafness. [321195]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, will write to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools with provision for deaf children were inspected by Ofsted in 2009. [321196]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, will write to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Library.

Truancy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils were persistent absentees in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* constituency in each of the last 10 years. [324530]

Mr. Coaker: Attendance data was collected at individual pupil level for the first time in 2005/06 from secondary schools only. Information on persistent absentees in secondary schools in 2005/06 at local authority level has been placed in the Library.

Information on persistent absentees in primary, secondary and special schools is available from 2006/07 onwards. Information at local authority level for 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09, and parliamentary constituency level for 2007/08 and 2008/09 has been placed in the Library. To provide further information would incur disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* rate of unauthorised absence and *(b)* number of day pupils of compulsory age was in each (i) local authority area and (ii) constituency in each of the last 10 years. [324539]

Mr. Coaker: The available information for the years 1999/2000, 2000/01, 2003/04, 2007/08, and 2008/09 has been placed in the Libraries. To provide further information would incur disproportionate cost.

Vocational Education

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the 20 most popular vocational courses taught in schools are; and what proportion of students passed those courses in the latest period for which figures are available. [313308]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not collect information about the subjects taught in schools but does collect information about exams taken in schools.

The 20 courses with the highest number of exam entries in vocational[1] qualifications by pupils at the end of key stage 4 in 2009 are given in the following table. The figures in the final column of the table are expressed as percentages of the whole cohort who were at the end of key stage 4 in 2009 rather than of those pupils who were entered for the qualification.

[1] Qualifications that count in the achievement and attainment tables that are not GCSEs or advanced supplementary GCEs in academic subjects.

Qualification type	*Qualification subject*	*Percentage of all pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieving a pass*[2]
VRQ Level 2	Computer Use	13.2
Basic Skill at Level 2	Numeracy	12.5
Basic Skill at Level 2	Literacy	12.3
General Qualification Level 2	Applied ICT	9.9
VRQ Level 1	Sports Leadership	8.3
Vocational GCSE Single	Additional Applied Science	7.2
OCR National Award Level 2	Computer Use	5.5
Basic Skill at Level 1	Numeracy	3.9
BTEC First Certificate	Sports Studies	3.7
BTEC First Certificate	Applied Sciences	3.6
VRQ Level 2	Preparation for Employment	3.4
Vocational GCSE Double	Health and Social Care	3.3
Basic Skill at Level 1	Literacy	3.4
Vocational GCSE Double	Applied Science	2.9
General Qualification Level 1	Applied ICT	2.0
VRQ Level 1	Preparation for Employment	2.0
Vocational GCSE Double	Applied Business	2.1
BTEC First Diploma	Sports Studies	2.1
Key Skill at Level 2	Working with others	1.9
OCR National Cert. Level 2	Computer Use	1.9

[2] The figures in the table are expressed as percentages of the whole cohort who were at the end of key stage 4 in 2009 rather than of those pupils who were entered for the qualification.

Young People: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many adolescents who received treatment for addiction to each category of drug were drug-free for *(a)* their drug of choice and *(b)* all other intoxicating substances in the latest period for which figures are available. [325782]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available centrally.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what intervention is used in the treatment of *(a)* heroin dependency, *(b)* crack dependency and *(c)* cocaine dependency amongst the adolescents which the National Treatment Agency has identified as having a Class A drug dependency. [325797]

Dawn Primarolo: Young people's substance misuse is markedly different to that of adults, and so is the combination of treatment and support they receive. Addiction to Class A drugs among young people is rare, and although substitute prescribing for heroin dependency does occur, this represents only 1 per cent. of under-18s in drug treatment.

Instead, interventions for young people tend to centre on psychosocial counselling-based therapies, which attempt to address the underlying causes and the behavioural consequences of the young person's drug and alcohol misuse. Most young people's substance misuse problems are with alcohol and cannabis, but these psychosocial therapies are also used with young people who misuse crack and cocaine.

Specialist substance misuse services work closely with many other children's services and agencies in assessing and addressing every aspect of a vulnerable young person's life.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 8 April 2010

TRANSPORT

Bus Services

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he plans to regulate audio-visual information systems on local bus services, as set out in the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000. [325887]

Mr. Khan: Widespread implementation of audio visual systems presents some significant technological challenges. The Department for Transport is conducting research to assess whether these challenges can be overcome before it considers whether to make amendments to the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 to include a requirement for such systems to be fitted to buses. The research has brought together a cross-section of stakeholders, including Guide Dogs, Royal National Institute of Blind People and Royal National Institute for Deaf People. The project is scheduled to report in summer 2010.

Bus Services: Concessions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Transport for London, *(b)* local authorities in England and *(c)* other transport authorities on the time taken to process (i) applications for and (ii) renewals of concessionary travel passes to those aged over 60 years; and if he will make a statement. [325872]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not hold information on the time taken for Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs) to process applications and renewals of concessionary travel passes. The Department has not had any recent discussions with Transport for London, local authorities in England or other TCAs on this issue.

TCAs are responsible for issuing concessionary travel passes to their residents. The maximum life of a pass is five years from the date of issue but there is no recommended minimum life. TCAs are therefore free to set the expiry dates, and renewal arrangements.

All English concessionary travel passes must now conform to a standard design and be ITSO smartcards. London was given until 1 April 2010 to meet these requirements which is why they have recently renewed all of the Freedom Passes in the capital.

The Department would expect TCAs to process routine applications for concessionary travel passes within a reasonable time frame although it is understandable that a bulk reissue of all passes may take slightly longer.

Railways: Construction

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport through which parliamentary constituencies *(a)* in the present Parliament and *(b)* in the next Parliament the Government's preferred route for High Speed Two will pass. [325255]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* HS2 Ltd.'s preferred route option passes through the following parliamentary constituencies in force in the present Parliament:

Aylesbury
Banbury
Beaconsfield
Birmingham Erdington
Birmingham Hodge Hill
Birmingham Ladywood
Brent East
Brent South
Buckingham
Chesham and Amersham
Daventry
Ealing, Acton and Shepherds Bush
Ealing North
Holborn and St. Pancras
Hampstead and Highgate
Lichfield
Meriden
North Warwickshire
Regents Park and Kensington North
Rugby and Kenilworth
Ruislip Northwood
South West Hertfordshire
Stratford-upon-Avon
Sutton Coldfield
Tamworth
Warwick and Leamington.

HS2 Ltd.'s preferred route option passes through the following parliamentary constituencies that will come into force in the next Parliament:

Aylesbury
Banbury
Beaconsfield
Birmingham, Erdington
Birmingham, Hodge Hill
Birmingham, Ladywood
Brent North
Buckingham
Chesham and Amersham
Ealing Central and Acton
Ealing North
Hammersmith
Hampstead and Kilburn
Holborn and St. Pancras
Kenilworth and Southam
Kensington
Lichfield
Meriden
North Warwickshire

Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner
South Northamptonshire
South West Hertfordshire
Sutton Coldfield
Tamworth
Uxbridge and South Ruislip
Westminster North.

Roads

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to establish *(a)* standards and *(b)* targets to encourage the adoption of unadopted alleyways; and if he will make a statement. [325874]

Mr. Khan: Under the Highways Act 1980, local highway authorities may adopt public rights of way that they are not currently responsible for maintaining. Such rights of way may include some types of alleyway or other local access routes. It is for individual authorities to decide whether they wish to adopt an alleyway or not, taking account of local priorities and standards.

The Government have no plans to set national standards or targets for the adoption of unadopted alleyways or other rights of way, as we believe this remains a matter for local consideration and decision.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport under what legislation a local authority can adopt an alleyway; and if he will make a statement. [325876]

Mr. Khan: Under the Highways Act 1980, local highway authorities may adopt public rights of way that they are not currently responsible for maintaining. Such rights of way may include some types of alleyway or other local access routes. It is for individual authorities to decide whether they wish to adopt an alleyway or not, taking account of local priorities and standards.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place in the Library a copy of the handbook for staff of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [323182]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is independent and manages its own affairs; the following is based on information it has provided.

The Commission is in the later stages of developing a full range of human resource policies. The policy is undergoing final consultation with the trade unions and is expected to be completed at the end of April 2010. Copies will be placed in the Library once finalised.

JUSTICE

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been paid in reimbursable expenses to special advisers in his Department since April 2008. [325101]

Mr. Straw: Since 1 April 2008 a total of £1,102.65 has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by the Department's special advisers.

Magistrates: Age

Jacqui Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons upper age limits for magistrates are in place. [325672]

Mr. Wills: Magistrates retire on reaching the age of 70, as this is the statutory retirement age for judicial office holders.

It is vital the magistrates reflect the diverse communities they serve. Over 80 per cent. of magistrates are over 50 and the average age is 57. The contribution of magistrates of all ages is invaluable. However, increasing the retirement age for magistrates would take them out of line with other judicial offices and hinder work to redress the age imbalance by reducing the number of available vacancies.

Jacqui Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made a recent assessment of the merits of *(a)* appointing magistrates over the age of 65 and *(b)* employing magistrates over the age of 70 years. [325673]

Mr. Wills: No recent assessment has been made on the merits of appointing magistrates over the age of 65 or employing magistrates over the age of 70 and there are no plans to undertake one for the reasons set out below. Magistrates retire on reaching the age of 70 as this is the statutory retirement age for judicial office holders.

Magistrates sit in a part-time capacity and generally have little previous experience of the court system, so will require training, mentoring and the opportunity to gain experience. The Lord Chancellor expects that part-time magistrates will be able to sit for at least five years before retirement. He will, therefore, not normally appoint anyone over the age of 65.

It is vital the magistrates reflect the diverse communities they serve. Over 80 per cent. of magistrates are over 50 and the average age is 57. The contribution of magistrates of all ages is invaluable. However, increasing the retirement age of magistrates, as set out in statute under Section 13 of the Courts Act 2003, would take them out of line with other judicial offices and hinder work to redress the age imbalance by reducing the number of available vacancies.

Prisoners: Ethnic Groups

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners there were of each ethnicity in each *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offender institution in England and Wales as at 1 March 2010. [325842]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the numbers of prisoners by each ethnicity in all prison establishments including young offender institutions, which are indicated, in England and Wales as at 30 June 2009 (latest published figures).

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison population of England and Wales by ethnic group as at 30 June 2009

	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other	Not stated	Unrecorded	1991 census codes	Total
All	60,770	2,852	6,011	12,017	1,412	159	14	219	83,454
Altcourse	1,160	21	58	49	18	2	0	6	1,314
Askham Grange	101	4	9	6	2	0	0	0	122
Acklington	890	9	27	10	4	0	0	0	940
Albany	461	6	16	68	0	1	1	1	554
Ashfield[1]	239	30	16	50	0	1	0	2	338
Ashwell	141	4	26	24	4	0	0	0	200
Aylesbury[1]	209	34	29	154	4	1	0	1	433
Belmarsh	508	36	73	252	25	0	0	3	897
Buckley Hall	304	7	34	30	1	1	0	0	377
Blundeston	303	22	42	139	6	1	0	1	514
Bedford	309	29	48	70	5	0	0	0	461
Blantyre House	86	1	2	25	2	1	0	1	118
Bristol	502	19	16	56	11	1	0	2	607
Birmingham	908	68	181	263	21	2	0	1	1,444
Bullingdon	769	47	90	147	21	3	0	4	1,081
Brinsford[1]	340	32	67	77	5	0	0	0	521
Bullwood Hall	51	4	49	73	52	0	0	0	229
Brixton	346	30	71	331	13	0	0	1	792
Bronzefield	308	20	13	80	16	2	0	0	439
Chelmsford	497	22	48	113	11	0	0	1	692
Cardiff	705	24	33	31	17	5	0	5	819
Camp Hill	371	22	32	133	7	1	0	0	566
Cookham Wood[1]	63	4	0	18	1	0	0	0	86
Coldingley	317	17	27	138	4	3	0	0	506
Castington[1]	343	5	6	8	6	0	0	3	371
Channings Wood	643	11	15	51	2	0	0	0	722
Canterbury	84	6	55	96	53	0	0	0	295
Dartmoor	526	15	18	56	2	3	0	0	620
Dovegate	590	29	67	153	6	3	0	0	848
Drake Hall	181	12	5	57	6	0	0	0	261
Durham	863	8	17	19	47	0	0	4	958
Doncaster	900	21	68	74	16	2	0	22	1,103
Dorchester	196	3	6	15	3	0	0	3	226
Deerbolt[1]	395	11	14	11	0	0	0	1	431
Dover	22	0	78	130	80	0	0	0	310
Downview	176	20	16	115	10	3	0	0	340
Erlestoke	364	13	17	70	2	1	0	1	468
Sheppey Cluster (Standford Hill)	304	14	33	86	8	2	0	4	450
East Sutton Park	43	7	3	31	4	0	0	0	88
Everthorpe	582	14	48	28	1	0	0	1	674
Eastwood Park	250	17	14	27	10	0	0	0	317
Exeter	502	6	5	15	0	1	0	3	531
Sheppey Cluster (Elmley)	788	21	38	97	8	1	0	1	954
Forest Bank	911	25	110	87	10	0	0	1	1,144
Ford	355	15	51	102	4	1	0	1	529
Foston Hall	190	8	6	11	2	0	0	0	217
Frankland	627	19	23	54	7	4	0	0	734
Feltham[1]	188	75	61	322	22	7	0	5	680
Full Sutton	421	26	41	75	3	11	0	0	577
Featherstone	470	28	77	103	4	0	0	0	682
Garth	679	19	58	52	9	0	0	0	817
Gloucester	238	7	12	24	2	0	0	4	287
Guys Marsh	435	22	17	95	4	0	0	1	575

Prison population of England and Wales by ethnic group as at 30 June 2009

	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other	Not stated	Unrecorded	1991 census codes	Total
Grendon/Spring Hill	368	27	50	68	0	2	0	0	516
Glen Parva[1]	576	69	39	95	10	1	0	4	793
Gartree	513	16	54	80	11	3	0	1	678
Hollesley Bay	238	9	17	67	4	0	0	0	334
Huntercombe[1]	111	26	26	93	3	0	0	1	260
Moorland Open	185	9	31	13	3	0	0	0	241
Hewell	998	39	121	165	20	1	0	0	1,344
Holme House	884	7	29	19	7	0	0	2	948
Hindley[1]	250	12	12	10	0	0	0	5	289
Hull	934	14	33	18	13	0	0	6	1,018
High Down	659	36	75	278	17	1	0	6	1,073
Highpoint	514	38	79	276	18	3	0	1	930
Haslar	31	4	49	49	18	1	0	0	151
Haverigg	558	10	41	18	2	1	0	0	629
Holloway	259	24	14	106	23	0	0	2	428
Kirkham	489	14	43	19	1	1	0	1	568
Kennet	321	3	1	10	1	0	0	0	336
Kirklevington Grange	216	4	40	9	1	0	0	0	270
Lancaster	208	2	14	5	0	0	0	0	228
Leicester	240	12	62	33	7	0	0	2	357
Leeds	897	38	131	58	22	1	9	1	1,157
Lancaster Farms[1]	408	29	20	29	1	0	0	6	493
Lowdham Grange	445	32	69	122	15	2	0	0	685
Lindholme	736	38	144	159	35	2	0	0	1,114
Lincoln	609	8	8	24	18	0	0	2	670
Long Lartin	327	23	69	108	6	3	0	1	537
Latchmere House	87	12	23	68	3	0	0	0	193
Low Newton	294	3	1	9	4	0	0	0	311
Liverpool	1,101	25	82	92	35	0	0	2	1,337
Littlehey	526	27	52	97	6	3	0	0	711
Lewes	567	11	17	63	5	0	0	1	664
Leyhill	387	12	37	44	7	0	0	5	492
Moorland Closed	599	37	53	73	5	3	0	0	771
Morton Hall	132	18	8	154	16	1	0	0	328
Manchester	916	38	120	123	18	1	0	10	1,226
Maidstone	409	8	35	125	9	2	0	1	590
Mount (The)	343	46	87	257	24	6	0	0	763
Edmunds Hill	215	14	42	87	11	0	0	0	369
New Hall	326	9	8	14	13	0	0	0	370
Nottingham	393	20	48	69	9	1	0	6	545
Northallerton[1]	207	8	11	5	1	0	0	0	232
North Sea Camp	250	10	24	18	2	0	0	0	303
Norwich	410	8	17	56	8	0	1	2	502
Onley	491	39	61	96	2	3	0	0	692
Peterborough	740	33	50	101	25	1	0	1	950
Portland[1]	316	35	29	161	7	1	0	3	553
Parkhurst	346	16	31	86	5	6	0	2	491
Preston	659	9	37	11	7	0	0	3	746
Parc	1,040	27	29	56	9	1	0	13	1,175
Kingston (Portsmouth)	139	7	12	16	1	0	0	0	175
Pentonville	507	47	146	365	34	0	1	7	1,105
Rochester[1]	340	40	49	210	9	0	0	0	647
Reading[1]	188	17	14	15	6	0	0	2	242
Rye Hill	406	24	59	153	8	2	0	1	654
Ranby	749	37	108	149	10	0	0	1	1,054
Risley	875	24	90	78	11	1	0	1	1,080
Send	209	8	12	42	7	0	0	0	278
Stafford	572	23	73	58	6	3	0	0	735

Prison population of England and Wales by ethnic group as at 30 June 2009

	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other	Not stated	Unrecorded	1991 census codes	Total
Stoke Heath[1]	460	28	40	50	1	1	0	0	580
Stocken	617	33	63	85	8	1	0	0	807
Sheppey Cluster (Swaleside)	463	29	74	246	9	3	0	2	826
Shepton Mallet	167	1	1	17	1	1	0	0	188
Swinfen Hall[1]	406	56	43	105	3	1	0	1	616
Styal	381	8	12	28	19	1	0	1	450
Sudbury	379	21	81	85	2	3	0	0	570
Swansea	368	5	11	10	3	0	0	1	398
Shrewsbury	250	2	14	19	5	0	0	0	290
Thorn Cross[1]	243	13	29	12	1	0	0	3	301
Usk/Prescoed	392	3	9	20	2	1	0	0	426
Verne (The)	235	11	39	287	17	0	0	0	589
Wellingborough	369	28	47	172	8	3	0	0	628
Winchester	588	21	24	40	14	0	1	1	689
Wakefield	588	23	40	70	6	9	0	0	735
Wealstun	394	20	64	37	2	1	0	0	517
Woodhill	581	46	55	104	14	1	1	8	809
Warren Hill[1]	125	13	9	40	2	0	0	0	188
Wayland	703	39	50	189	18	0	0	1	1,000
Wymott	979	18	70	53	6	1	0	0	1,127
Werrington[1]	93	14	10	12	1	0	0	0	130
Wolds	338	11	18	20	0	0	0	0	388
Whitemoor	231	26	46	129	8	3	0	1	444
Wormwood Scrubs	606	62	191	399	30	1	1	3	1,293
Whatton	730	6	54	45	3	2	0	0	840
Wandsworth	947	58	158	435	64	6	0	7	1,675
Wetherby[1]	299	24	15	14	5	0	0	3	360

[1] Establishments which serve as Young Offender Institutions

CABINET OFFICE

10 Downing Street

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many times *(a)* Mr Derek Draper and *(b)* Mr Charlie Whelan has visited the Cabinet Office/ Downing Street complex since October 2009. [322911]

Tessa Jowell: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend on 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 508W.

10 Downing Street: Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what criteria are used to determine the granting of a Downing Street pass; and how many such passes there are. [318249]

Angela E. Smith: Passes for access to 10, 11 and 12 Downing Street are issued to staff who work in the building and to individuals who require access for business purposes.

Admiralty House

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost to the public purse of *(a)* rent, *(b)* utility bills, *(c)* council tax payments and *(d)* other running costs for each Ministerial residence in Admiralty House was in each of the last three years. [324725]

Angela E. Smith: Admiralty House is held freehold and no rent is payable. Along with other shared costs, utility costs are calculated on the basis of a share of those for Admiralty House as a whole and are not held separately for individual flats. One flat has been vacant since 27 July 2009; another vacant since 27 June 2007; and another vacant since 30 June 2006. All the flats are in council tax band H.

Business: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses were registered for value added tax in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997. [325846]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated April 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many businesses were registered for value added tax in (a) Essex and (b) Castle Point in each year since 1997. [325846]

Annual statistics on counts of VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises are available for 2009 from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at

www.statistics.gov.uk.

The table below is a subset of this, containing just VAT based enterprise statistics and shows the count of VAT based Enterprises in Essex County and Castle Point for each year from 1997.

Count of VAT based Enterprises in Essex county and Castle Point from 1997-2009

	Essex county	Castle Point
1997	42,065	n/a
1998	43,625	2,105
1999	37,705	2,130
2000	38,655	2,160
2001	39,100	2,165
2002	39,395	2,190
2003	39,705	2,205
2004	39,435	2,160
2005	40,090	2,160
2006	40,505	2,215
2007	41,065	2,245
2008	42,475	2,295
2009	42,390	2,235

Central Office of Information: Advertising

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Central Office of Information's marketing, advertising and public relations expenditure *(a)* was in 2008-09 and *(b)* is planned to be in 2009-10; and how much has been spent in 2009-10 to date. [320730]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the right hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 7 April 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [320730] asking for COI expenditure on marketing, advertising and public relations from 2008-2010.

The Central Office of Information's marketing, advertising and public relations expenditure in 2008-09 was £380.8m.

The COI cannot provide planned expenditure for 2009-10 as it is determined by the requirements of our Client Departments.

Expenditure to date for 2009-10 can only be provided once the annual accounts have been fully audited.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was spent by the Central Office of Information on advertising in the first three quarters of financial year 2009-10. [321715]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 7 April 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [321715] asking how much was spent by the Central Office of Information on advertising in the first three quarters of financial year 2009-10.

Expenditure to date for 2009-10 can only be provided once the annual accounts have been fully audited.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Central Office of Information has spent on contracts with advertising agencies with registered offices outside the UK in each of the last three years; with which agencies the contracts were with; in which centres the registered offices were located; and if she will make a statement. [325760]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Central Office of Information: Marketing

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reason promotional stress items are included in the Central Office of Information contract referred to in Contract Notice 2009/S 79-113888; what bodies have purchased promotional stress items through the Central Office of Information in the last three years; and at what cost such items were purchased. [322873]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 7 April 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [322873] regarding the Merchandising and Promotional Framework.

No supplier was appointed against Lot1: Label 23: Promotional Stress items print and production of stress items on the merchandising and promotional items framework and therefore no expenditure has been made.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Downing Street Twitter service will be terminated during the general election purdah period. [320732]

Tessa Jowell: Yes.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from her Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322085]

Angela E. Smith: In the last 12 months the Cabinet Office has recorded six departmental assets as being reported as missing or stolen.

The six items are:

two mobile phones;

one Blackberry charger;

one keyboard;

an electric heater; and

an assortment of laptop accessories.

The total cost of replacement is £772.81.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by her Department and its agency were in the last three years; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of each. [324655]

Angela E. Smith: Events hosted by the Cabinet Office include official dinners and events for foreign leaders and other dignitaries, receptions for business leaders, community and charity representatives and sportsmen and women.

Information on official and charity receptions held at 10 Downing Street is published by means of an annual list as soon as it is ready at the end of the financial year.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans she has to establish a single management team and united press office for 10 Downing Street and the Cabinet Office. [323547]

Tessa Jowell: Management of the three core communications functions in the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet Office—press office, strategic communications and digital communications—is being merged into one senior team. This will improve co-ordination and efficiency.

The new management team was agreed in March 2010 and a revised staff structure across the core communications functions will be in place by 1 July.

Government Departments: Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 969W, on the Government departments: internet, (1) if she will list the website address of each of the 479 websites that were committed to be closed but have not yet been closed; [318307]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the full Website Review report summary, listing the *(a)* operational and to be continued, *(b)* closed and *(c)* operational but due for closure websites in the case of each public authority for which records are held. [318308]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 7 April 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [318307/8] on Government Websites.

A Website Review report summary itemising what is requested will be placed in the Library in April 2010 updating the previous version placed in February 2010.

Government Departments: Private Detectives

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 602W, on Government departments: private detectives, which departments have commissioned individuals from the panel of independent investigators in the last 24 months. [320906]

Tessa Jowell: It has been the policy of successive Governments not to reveal details of specific security matters.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 602W, on Government departments: private detectives, how much expenditure has been incurred on commissioning individuals from the panel of independent investigators in the last 24 months. [320907]

Tessa Jowell: Costs for panel members are incurred by individual Departments. This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 602W, on Government departments: private detectives, on how many occasions individuals from the panel of independent investigators have been commissioned to undertake investigations in the last 24 months. [320908]

Tessa Jowell: It has been the policy of successive Governments not to reveal details of specific security matters.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the written ministerial statement of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 73W, on special advisers, what criteria are used to determine the pay band of a special adviser. [322882]

Tessa Jowell: The criteria used to determine the pay band of a special adviser are underpinned by a tailored job evaluation scheme.

Music: Licensing Laws

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 10 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 280, on music licensing levies, what the statutory basis is which requires the arrangements for music licensing levies to apply to church halls. [323541]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

In the UK, the statutory basis for the licensing of music, sound recordings and performances, including in church halls, is set out in the Copyright Designs and Patents Act (CDPA) 1988 (as amended).

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 10 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 280, on music licensing levies, what the timetable is for discussions with the voluntary sector and the subsequent laying and ratification of secondary legislation. [323543]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

Discussions between PPL and the third sector to find the best possible music licensing system are ongoing, initiated by my ministerial colleagues at the Office for the Third Sector. A number of issues remain to be resolved, and in the circumstances it has not been possible to introduce the planned legislative changes before the dissolution of Parliament prior to the forthcoming general election.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 10 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 280, on music licensing levies, if she will publish the evidential basis for changes to the original estimate of £20 million cost to the voluntary sector. [323544]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The impact assessment estimated the average annual cost to the third sector of the repeal of the current exemptions contained in s. 67 and 72(1B)(a) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 to be £18.7 million per year for the purchasing of Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) licences. This has not been changed. Full details of the impact assessment were published and are available here:

http://www.ipo.gov.uk/govresponse-musiclicensing.pdf

The impact assessment figure of £18.7 million was based on a flat fee of £81 per annum for each music user. PPL have now indicated that they charge most commercial organisations like hairdressers, pubs and offices between £50 and £120 per year and it is likely that most third sector organisations would be charged at the lower end of this range. This would reduce the original estimate of £18.7 million. But the actual cost of repeal would be dependent on the tariffs agreed through negotiation between PPL and the third sector organisations.

National Identity Register

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the proposed citizen's unique identifier will be linked to the National Identity Register. [324815]

Tessa Jowell: The Prime Minister gave a speech on 22 March 2010 on Building Britain's Digital Future, in which he outlined the need to make it easy and convenient for the citizen to prove identity when using online services. The Digital Delivery Programme is working with others across Government, including the National Identity Service, on how this can be achieved.

The purpose of the National Identity Service is to ensure that citizens can prove their identity in a secure and convenient way when they need to in a range of different situations. It can play an important part in achieving better access to services online. However, no final decisions on how a unique citizen identifier might be reflected on the National Identity Register have yet been taken.

Official Residences

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1002W, on official residences: repairs and maintenance, and with reference to the Cabinet Office's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09, what the monetary value was of the fixed asset expenditure in relation to Crown Proposal 08/00696/1884; and which suppliers were commissioned to undertake the work. [318311]

Angela E. Smith: I have nothing further to add to the answer given on 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1003W.

Social Investment Wholesale Bank

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what timetable has been set for the launch of the Social Investment Wholesale Bank announced in Budget 2010. [325809]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Statistics

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what research has been undertaken into the levels of public confidence in Government statistics in the last 10 years. [318124]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Sir Michael Scholar KCB, dated April 2010:

As Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what research has been undertaken into the levels of public confidence in Government statistics in the last 10 years [318124].

There have been three surveys of public confidence in official statistics undertaken in the last ten years, in 2004, 2005 and 2007. Detailed analyses of the results of these surveys are available at the following links:

2004 survey:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/public_confidence/downloads/BritishOfficialStat.pdf

2005 survey:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/public_confidence/downloads/OmnibusMarch05.pdf

2007 survey:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/public_confidence/downloads/pcos_2007.pdf

Additional information about public confidence in official statistics and the surveys is available at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=13967

The UK Statistics Authority expects to publish the results of an updated survey of public confidence in official statistics, and related analysis, later this year.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Credit

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to increase the level of access to credit for small businesses in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands in the last two years. [325767]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have introduced a range of measures to help businesses through the global recession and to promote growth during the recovery. These include:

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG)

This encourages additional bank lending to creditworthy SMEs with viable business cases who do not have sufficient security available to support their borrowing request on a normal commercial basis. Over £1.28 billion of eligible EFG applications from over 11,400 firms have been granted, are being processed or assessed, and over 8,940 businesses have been offered loans totalling nearly £910 million.

Set out in the following table is the information for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee for Coventry and the west midlands.

	Number of loans offered	*Number of loans drawn*	*Value of loans offered (£ million)*	*Value of loans drawn*
Coventry	26	19	4.07	2.43
West midlands	812	687	83.07	67.08

The Capital for Enterprise Fund

The fund supports viable businesses with equity or mezzanine investment aimed at releasing and sustaining growth, investing between £200,000 and £2 million where the business has exhausted its borrowing capacity with lenders.

To date the appointed fund managers have made offers totalling £98.7 million to 66 businesses, including three in the west midlands worth £4.8 million. 26 businesses have received investment, including one in the west midlands with a value of £2 million. I am not providing this breakdown by parliamentary constituency as this could make it possible to identify the individual companies that have received, or are under consideration for, support.

The fund is now closed to new applications, although businesses are still receiving investments from existing applications.

HM Revenue and Customs' Business Support Service

This reviews payment of businesses tax liabilities and tries to come to an arrangement that allows companies to spread payments to help them over temporary difficulties. So far, there have been agreements made with over 200,000 businesses to spread more than £2.5 billion in business taxes. Changes to tax rules allow loss-making businesses to temporarily extend trading loss carry-back from one to three years for losses up to £50,000. In the west midlands, 27,800 arrangements have been made to defer payments of £480 million.

Business Link Health Checks

These provide a free review of businesses with a professional business adviser for hands-on advice and help accessing the full range of Government help. To the end of February 2009, over 128,000 businesses benefitted from a health check, including 15,487 businesses in the west midlands.

Prompt Payment

In the financial year 2009-10, central Government expects to pay an additional £40 billion to suppliers within 10 days (a target set in October 2008) compared to 2008-09, and 19 out of 20 central Government invoices are now paid in 10 days.

The Working Capital Scheme (WCS)

WCS has provided guarantees to two banks on portfolios of short-term loans with good credit risk in order to release regulatory capital to enable those banks to increase lending to businesses. The two banks with WCS guarantees, Lloyds Banking Group and Royal Bank of Scotland, have made lending commitments of £39 billion.

Public Borrowing Review 2009 announced that as the broader Asset Protection Scheme now provides banks with considerably greater capital release, so new portfolios will not be guaranteed under the WCS although existing portfolio guarantees will remain until March 2011. Companies' access to the WCS was through the banks; they did not apply for it directly.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises located in Coventry on their access to credit. [325768]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Access to credit is a key issue as UK economy moves to recovery. Ministers are in regular contact with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and access to credit continues to be a major topic for discussion. In particular, the Minster for Trade, Investment and Small Business visited Coventry, Birmingham and Worcester in 2009, where he participated in Q and A sessions with businesses of all sizes on a variety of topics. He also attended the 2010 annual FSB conference where access to credit featured in the discussion with the audience.

The Minister for the West Midlands has regularly discussed the issue in his meetings with local business organisations and local business people and it was featured in his speech to the West Midlands Economic Forum which took place in February in Coventry.

Access to finance for SMEs was recognised in Budget 2010 where the Government, building on their support to business through the downturn such as the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme, announced measures such as the launch of the UK Finance for Growth, a body responsible for overseeing the Government stock of over £4 billion of SM finance products, including the Growth Capital Fund (announced in PBR 2009), for which £200 million of cornerstone investment has been raised so far from private sector and Government.

In addition, the UK is continuing to work with the EU's financial institutions (the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund) to stimulate more venture capital and loan support for SMEs. Furthermore, the Budget announced the Small Business Credit Adjudicator (SBCA). Once established the SBCA will hear cases, referred by Business Link's Financial Intermediary Service (FIS), where a business may have been unfairly denied credit.

To advise on the role and responsibilities of the SBCA the Government have launched a new task force. Enterprise Champion Lord Sugar, outgoing Federation of Small Businesses chairman John Wright and former Lloyd's TSB deputy chief executive Mike Fairey will comprise the task force. They will build on the work Lord Sugar has been doing with small businesses, FIS and the banks.

Business: Denton and Reddish

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Denton and Reddish constituency have received support from his Department since 2008. [325853]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since April 2008, 1,847 businesses in Denton and Reddish have received business advice through Business Link North West. Five businesses have received grants or loans totalling £336,669.

Business: Government Assistance

Willie Rennie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the small firms loan guarantee scheme. [325138]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* In January 2010, the Department published the Economic Evaluation of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee undertaken by the Institute of Employment Studies.

This study rigorously tested the effectiveness and value for money of SFLG and concludes that the basic rationale for SFLG is supported and that it appears to be a cost-effective way of supporting additional economic activity in the small business sector.

More specifically, the majority (81 per cent.) of SFLG recipients receive SFLG on their first loan application. For a majority (76 per cent.) of SFLG recipients, there were no alternative sources of finance available to them.

This is confirmed by 79 per cent. of SFLG recipients reporting the bank would probably, or definitely not, have given them a loan without SFLG. Just under half (49 per cent.) of businesses would definitely, or probably not, have proceeded with their project without SFLG.

A growth in sales, jobs and exports is attributable to SFLG supported lending within the first two years of the loan. The 3,100 SFLG supported businesses in 2006 have created between 3,550 to 6,340 additional jobs in the two years following receipt of the loan, created between £75 million and £150 million additional sales over two years; and were responsible for £33 million exports per annum.

Just within two years of receiving the loan the benefits of the scheme are outweighing the costs.

SFLG appears to be a particularly cost effective way of creating additional employment.

The full report is available via the BIS website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file54112.doc

The Small Firms Loan Guarantee was replaced by the Enterprise Finance Guarantee in January 2009.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with Royal Bank of Scotland on its administration of the small firms loan guarantee scheme. [325139]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* The Small Firms Loan Guarantee (SFLG) was replaced by the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) in January 2009.

Ministers have regular discussions with representatives of each of the main UK lenders regarding a range of SME finance issues including via the Small Business Finance Forum.

Capital for Enterprise Ltd. (CfEL), which is responsible for operational delivery of SFLG and EFG on behalf of the Department, maintains a regular dialogue with each of the accredited lenders specifically regarding their administration of these schemes.

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in Birmingham have received assistance under (i) the Working Capital Scheme, (ii) the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme, (iii) the Capital Enterprise Scheme, (iv) the Regional Loan Transition Fund and (v) the Phoenix Fund since each scheme's inception. [325338]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is as follows:

(i) The Working Capital Scheme (WCS) has provided guarantees to two banks on portfolios of short-term loans with good credit risk in order to release regulatory capital to enable those banks to increase lending to businesses. The two banks with WCS guarantees, Lloyds Banking Group and Royal Bank of Scotland, have made lending commitments of £39 billion.

Public Borrowing Review 2009 announced that as the broader Asset Protection Scheme now provides banks with considerably greater capital release, so new portfolios will not be guaranteed under the WCS although existing portfolio guarantees will remain until March 2011. Companies' access to the WCS was through the banks; they did not apply for it directly.

(ii) The Enterprise Finance Guarantee is open to SMEs with a turnover of up to £25 million, rather than large businesses. A total of 142 loans worth £16.16 million have been offered to Birmingham businesses under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, of which 118 loans worth £11.40 million have been drawn down. Loans under the scheme are available to firms with a turnover of up to £25 million and are not therefore available to large businesses.

(iii) The Capital for Enterprise fund provides support to SMEs rather than large businesses. To date the appointed fund managers have made offers totalling £98.7 million to 66 businesses, including three in the West Midlands worth £4.8 million. 26 businesses have received investment, including one in the West Midlands with a value of £2 million. I am not providing this breakdown by parliamentary constituency as this could make it possible to identify the individual companies that have received, or are under consideration, for support.

(iv) The Advantage Transition Bridge Fund (ATBF) provided loans worth £2,677,000 to 18 companies in Birmingham. Information breaking these loans down by the size of the businesses is not available. The fund closed for new loans from 1 December 2009.

(v) During the Phoenix fund (which ran from 2002-06) Government provided £1.886 million to Community Development Finance Institutes (CDFIs) operating mainly in the Birmingham area. This capital was onward lent to 130 start up and existing businesses (the vast majority of these will have been in the Birmingham area).

Since the end of the Phoenix fund Advantage West Midlands has provided support to CDFIs and other lenders under the Advantage Small Loan scheme and more recently the Small Business Loan programme. Both have drawn on ERDF funding as well as funds from AWM and local authorities. Between 1 April 2007 and 31 December 2009 Aston Reinvestment Trust (ART) and the Arrow Fund (two of the alternative lenders which have received funding under these programmes) made 235 loans totalling £3.574 million to businesses in Birmingham and Solihull.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what additional assistance his Department provided to small and medium-sized enterprises located in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands during the recent recession. [325769]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Copyright: Music

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the new regime of PPL music licensing will remove exemptions from *(a)* student unions and *(b)* educational institutions. [323976]

Mr. Lammy: Discussions between PPL and the third sector to find the best possible music licensing system are ongoing, initiated by my ministerial colleagues at the Office for the Third Sector. A number of issues remain to be resolved, and in the circumstances it has not been possible to introduce the planned legislative changes before the dissolution of Parliament prior to the forthcoming general election.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325204]

Ian Lucas: According to departmental records, no formal complaints have been received in the past year by the Department or its Ministers about difficulties operating the Department's corporate websites (including the websites of the former Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)). No formal complaints on this topic were recorded in the lifetime of the DIUS website. Records of formal complaints to BERR are not available prior to March 2009 when procedures were overhauled.

The Department receives informal feedback from website users on an ongoing basis by email and via contact forms on its websites, including occasional comments on website usability.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325222]

Ian Lucas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 29 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 810-811W.

Departmental Location

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on the relocation of staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [321436]

Ian Lucas: The Department did not relocate any staff from posts in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years.

Exports: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point made exports in each year since 1997. [325787]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 7 April 2010]:* HM Revenue and Customs publishes the UK Regional Trade in Goods Statistics, the most recent issue was published on 11 March 2010. A copy can be found at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/pagecontent/downloads/RtsPRDataTablesQ409.pdf

These statistics provide data at regional level only so we are unable to confirm the number of exporting companies in the county of Essex or the district of Castle Point.

Foreign Investment: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of *(a)* the monetary value of foreign client investment in (i) Essex and (ii) Castle Point in each year since 2003 and *(b)* the number of jobs created as a consequence in each such year. [325788]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 7 April 2010]:* It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Further Education: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has of the number of colleges in *(a)* England and *(b)* London which incurred costs in preparing capital bids to the Learning and Skills Council which were not proceeded with; and what estimate has been made of the total financial effect on those colleges in (i) England and (ii) London of the capital bids not proceeding. [325569]

Kevin Brennan: 171 colleges in England, 25 of which are in London, incurred property costs on projects not currently proceeding. All colleges were eligible for normal grant support towards these costs as set out in the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Capital Handbook and additional capital support was also made available to 42 of the colleges experiencing the most serious financial difficulties as a result of their aborted capital programmes. In total, the net cost to colleges was £126 million, with colleges in London incurring costs of £27 million.

Since 2001 LSC grant support to projects has amounted to £3.4 billion.

Imports

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether measures to limit imports into the UK from countries which have not enacted legislation equivalent to the Climate Change Act 2008 are permissible under Article XX of GATT. [325862]

Ian Lucas: In accordance with World Trade Organisation (WTO) case law, to comply with Article XX of GATT any such import restriction would need inter alia to:

be primarily aimed at the conservation of exhaustible natural resources;

be the least trade-restrictive method of achieving the desired level of protection of the environment;

take proper account of the different ways in which countries may seek to pursue the same environmental goals and the needs of developing countries;

not constitute a means of unfair discrimination.

Industry: Denton and Reddish

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage private sector investment in industry in Denton and Reddish constituency; and if he will make a statement. [325851]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Support from the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) has helped to turn Broadstone Mill in Reddish into a state-of-the-art workspace with business incubation facilities, aimed specifically at innovative new businesses in the knowledge economy. Further grants have been awarded to businesses operating within the incubator. Businesses in Denton and Reddish are also eligible for support under the Government's North West Intensive Startup Support Programme (ISUS) launched in January.

Learning and Skills Council: Sweet Concepts

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 156W, on the Central Office of Information: marketing, what promotional products were purchased from Sweet Concepts Ltd on behalf of the *(a)* Learning and Skills Council and *(b)* University for Industry; and at what cost in each case. [324301]

Kevin Brennan: The Central Office of Information purchased promotional food items from Sweet Concepts Ltd. on behalf of:

(a) Learning and Skills Council at a total cost of £6,655

(b) University for Industry (Ufi) at a total cost of £1,498.

Local Press: Competition

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will refer the transfer of Guardian Media Group to Trinity Mirror to the Competition Commission to investigate potential monopolies in media ownership in Cheshire and Surrey. [325147]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 6 April 2010]:* The responsibility for investigating and making decisions on mergers falls to the UK's independent competition authorities. In this case, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is investigating the acquisition under the Enterprise Act 2002 which will include whether it creates potential monopolies in markets.

The OFT will announce its conclusions in due course including whether or not to refer the merger to the Competition Commission.

Optics: Technology

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much research funding his Department has provided to the *(a)* Optic Research and Incubation Centre at St Asaph Business Park and *(b)* members of the Welsh Opto-Electronic Forum in each of the last 10 years; and how much such funding it plans to provide to each of those organisations in each of the next three years. [325392]

Mr. Lammy: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many places on higher education courses in *(a)* England and *(b)* Essex have been awarded to Tier 4 (General) student visa holders; and how many such students did not attend their course. [325839]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 7 April 2010]:* It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Students: Loans

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how long on average the Student Loans Company has taken to process an application for a student loan in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [325150]

Mr. Lammy: Academic year 2009-10 was the first year of operation for the new centralised Student Finance England service when all new students studying in England applied for support to the Student Loans Company (SLC), rather than to their local authority, and therefore we can only provide data for this year. The National Audit Office[1] found that the SLC took an average of 12.4 weeks to process new applications.

[1] The Customer First Programme: Delivery of Student Finance - Report by National Audit Office, page 5 - point 6, 19 March 2010.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance: Na-h-Eileanan an Iar

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Na-h-Eileanan an Iar constituency received attendance allowance in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2007-08. [325847]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the table:

Attendance allowance—cases in payment in Na-h-Eileanan an Iar parliamentary constituency

Quarter ending	Number
February 2007	880
May 2007	900
August 2007	930

Attendance allowance—cases in payment in Na-h-Eileanan an Iar parliamentary constituency

Quarter ending	Number
November 2007	940
February 2008	960
May 2008	980
August 2008	1,030
November 2008	1,090
February 2009	1,090
May 2009	1,110
August 2009	1,150

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Cases in payment show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Carer's Allowance: Na-h-Eileanan an Iar

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Na-h-Eileanan an Iar constituency received carer's allowance in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2007-08. [325848]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is in the table:

Carer's allowance—cases in payment in Na-h-Eileanan an Iar parliamentary constituency

Quarter ending	Number
February 2007	200
May 2007	200
August 2007	200
November 2007	200
February 2008	200
May 2008	200
August 2008	200
November 2008	200
February 2009	200
May 2009	190
August 2009	190

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Cases in payment show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Housing Benefit

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the consultation document entitled Supporting people into work: the next stage of housing benefit reform, (1) what assessment she has made of the effects of the implementation of local housing allowance on the expenditure on housing benefit; and what estimate she made of the cost to the public purse of local housing allowance at the time of its implementation; [322155]

(2) what her Department's *(a)* original estimate was and *(b)* most recent estimate is of the effect on the overall level of expenditure on housing benefit of the introduction of local housing allowance. [322559]

Helen Goodman: On 15 December the housing benefit consultation, 'Supporting people into work: the next stage of housing benefit reform', was launched. The consultation concluded on 22 February 2010. We are now considering the responses and we will set out how we will take forward our proposals in due course.

In 2004-05 nine Pathfinder local authorities piloted the local housing allowance. In 2005 the pilot was extended to cover a further nine local authorities, so as to cover a total of 18 local authorities.

In the pre-Budget report 2006 it was confirmed that,

'subject to the successful passage of the Welfare Reform Bill, the Government will introduce the local housing allowance across the private rented sector for all new housing benefit claimants and those who move house from April 2008'.

At this time the estimated impact of the national roll-out of local housing allowance alone, all other external and market factors equal, on the Annual Managed Expenditure (AME) was an additional £20 million in the first year, against a total expenditure in the private rented sector of £4.3 billion for 2006-07.

This estimate is now likely to be out-of-date due to a number of factors, including the impact of the recession on the caseload size and composition, and changes in the boundaries of the areas from which local housing allowance rates are calculated. Due to the complexities involved in adjusting for such factors, and the lack of administrative data covering part of this period, a current estimate of the effect of the introduction of local housing allowance on the overall level of housing benefit expenditure is not available.

Low Incomes

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to address the matter of low pay. [322678]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government introduced the national minimum wage (NMW) in April 1999 to ensure a decent minimum rate of pay for all employees. In October 2010, the adult NMW rate will rise to £5.93 per hour. Table 5.1 in Budget 2010 shows the minimum income guaranteed by the combination of working and child tax credits and the NMW once the new rate comes into effect. A family with one child and one person working 35 hours a week will receive a minimum income of £310 per week, a 27 per cent. increase in real terms since April 1999.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Angola: Foreign Relations

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the UK-Angolan bilateral relationship. [325463]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our strategic partnership with Angola is developing well. Given Angola's geo-political importance, it is important that our two governments should consult closely and we are strengthening collaboration on a range of regional and international issues. In line with

the Angolan Government's wish to diversify the economy, UK investment is broadening in this, the third-largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa. The new constitution in February and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' zero-tolerance policy on corruption make it particularly timely to be deepening the relationship. The UK has an important role in supporting Angola's development, building on traditional links but also uncovering new opportunities. Beyond inter-governmental cooperation, UK-based non-governmental organisations and the private sector are key parts of this process. We hope also to develop ideas for working with key constitutional bodies, including the National Assembly, in which support from Members of the House would be valuable.

China: Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the discovering of 21 foetuses and baby bodies in the Guangfu river, Jining City, China; whether he has made representations to the government of China on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [325867]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

China: Family Planning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the operation of a one child policy by the government of China; and if he will make a statement. [325868]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of China on its population planning policies; and if he will make a statement. [325879]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions officials in the British Embassy in China have had with Chinese officials on *(a)* forced abortion and sterilisation and *(b)* birth control quotas in China; and if he will make a statement. [325880]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of China to relax its population planning policy; and if he will make a statement. [325881]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

China: Political Prisoners

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in the British Embassy in China have had with the government of China on the case of Chen Guangcheng; and if he will make a statement. [325878]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Crimes of Violence: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role the Minister with lead responsibility for the Government's work to tackle violence against women overseas will have in the Government's cross-departmental strategy to tackle violence against women. [325866]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in real terms. [324807]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to *(a)* the government of Iran and *(b)* the Palestinian Authority on the fate of the missing Israeli service personnel; and if he will make a statement. [325696]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We consistently call for the immediate release of Gilad Shalit. The EU reiterated this call in the December Foreign Affairs Council conclusions and made our collective position very clear in international meetings, most recently during the Quartet meeting in Moscow on 19 March.

Nigeria: Violence

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Nigerian counterpart on the recent violence in Jos. [325462]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary condemned the recent violence in Jos in a joint statement with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and EU High Representative Baroness Ashton on 29 January. I raised UK concerns with former Foreign

Minister Maduekwe on 15 March, and my noble Friend the Minister of State for Africa discussed earlier disturbances in Jos with the former Foreign Minister, when she met him on 20 January. Our high commission in Abuja remains in frequent contact with state and federal authorities on this issue, and has continued to urge the Nigerian Government to bring those responsible for crimes to justice, and to address the underlying causes of conflict.

Passports: Fraud

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Oral Statement of 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 133-4, on UK passports (use in Dubai murder), what the other reasons are for not releasing the report by the Serious Organised Crime Agency. [325103]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The report was compiled as the result of a criminal investigation by the Serious Organised Crime Agency into the use of counterfeit British passports. Such reports which may lead to, or be relevant to, criminal proceedings in the [redacted] or elsewhere are not released.

Southern Africa: HIV Infection

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to fulfil its commitments under the Achieving Universal Access AIDS Strategy, in *(a)* Lesotho, *(b)* Botswana and *(c)* Swaziland. [325456]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s role under the Government's Achieving Universal Access HIV strategy is primarily focused on advocacy and lobbying to support the aims of the strategy. In doing this, we work closely with a broad range of partners in relevant countries, including the host government, non-government and multilateral organisations and other major donors.

Given the continued high level of infection rates in Southern Africa, there are several large bilateral and multilateral donors working with the governments in Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland. The FCO's efforts in these countries are therefore focused on providing political support to the major donors and international organisations, as well as providing support to non-government organisations.

For example, in Botswana, our high commission follows the HIV situation and policies closely, maintains links with the National AIDS Coordination Agency and the Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS. It also looks for opportunities to support the major bilateral HIV/AIDS donors in addressing sensitive issues.

Our non-resident diplomatic representation to Lesotho or Swaziland is based at our high commission in Pretoria, where our staff monitor and report on developments in country and have a dialogue with a range of relevant partners on HIV/AIDS issues. In Swaziland, for example, we have held discussions with the National Director of the National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS as well as a number of non-governmental organisations.

Our high commissions in Pretoria and Gaborone work closely with the Department for International Development (DFID) Southern Africa (based in Pretoria, South Africa), responsible for DFID's work in Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland. Tackling HIV in the region is a priority for DFID Southern Africa. For example, DFID Southern Africa is funding a £23 million Behaviour Change Communication Programme across 10 countries (including Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland), reaching 60 per cent. of the youth population. They are also contributing £18 million to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Children and AIDS Regional Initiative across six countries (including Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland), helping orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV and AIDS. At the national level in Lesotho, DFID Southern Africa is providing £2.5 million to the Apparel Lesotho Alliance to Fight AIDS (ALAFA) programme, providing HIV prevention, treatment and care services to 48,000 factory workers, 80 per cent. of whom are women.

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to fulfil its commitments under the AIDS Strategy, Achieving Universal Access in *(a)* Lesotho, *(b)* Botswana and *(c)* Swaziland. [325692]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s role under the Government's Achieving Universal Access HIV strategy is primarily focussed on advocacy and lobbying to support the aims of the strategy. In doing this, we work closely with a broad range of partners in relevant countries, including the host government, non-government and multilateral organisations and other major donors.

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ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: Shropshire

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on air quality in Shropshire. [325438]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been no recent discussions between the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and the Secretary of State for Transport on air quality in Shropshire. Ministers from both Departments met recently to discuss transport measures to improve air quality in the UK, and DEFRA and Department for Transport officials meet regularly to discuss national and local transport measures to improve air quality.

Climate Change

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the effects of climate change on the UK's wildlife and habitat. [325614]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Recent discussions with ministerial colleagues include Government's publication "Climate Change: Taking Action". This brings together the key themes from central Government Departments and is available from the Libraries of the House. The effects of climate change on biodiversity are considered in further detail in DEFRA's Adaptation Plan and the specific supplement on adaptation and the natural environment, available on the DEFRA website.

Coastal Erosion

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency spent on sea defences in *(a)* total, *(b)* East Anglia and *(c)* Essex in each of the last 10 years. [325454]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following figures show the Environment Agency's spend on coastal and tidal schemes in England, East Anglia and Essex.

Sea and tidal schemes in England

	£ million
2008-09	84
2009-10 (forecast outturn)	95

Sea and tidal defences capital expenditure figures

	East Anglia	£ million Essex
2000-01	7.9	0.7
2001-02	6.5	1.2
2002-03	10.9	1.5
2003-04	12.6	0.9
2004-05	10.8	0.6
2005-06	11.5	1.6
2006-07	15.2	1.9
2007-08	9.8	0.6
2008-09	38	9.7
2009-10 (forecast outturn)	24	3.5

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in real terms. [324808]

Dan Norris: The total cost of employing staff in the DEFRA press office for the period of 1 April 2009 to 28 February 2010 was £906,316.80. Figures for March 2010 are not yet available.

DEFRA was established in 2001. There are therefore no figures available for press office costs in 1996-97.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints his Department received regarding difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325198]

Dan Norris: There have been no complaints about the DEFRA website in the last three years through DEFRA's formal complaints process or via ministerial correspondence.

We do not keep statistics of the ad hoc website feedback received by e-mail through the "Contact Us" option on the site. Where negative comments are received they are generally about the content rather than the operation of the website.

In the month following the September 2009 redesign of the DEFRA website we received about 120 e-mails—many more than usual. This generally arose from unfamiliarity with the new design, and the in-house DEFRA web team followed up and helped overcome any temporary difficulties among users.

In March 2010 DEFRA carried out a random website user survey which invited visitors to the DEFRA website to give a general comment on the website, as well as answer a series of structured questions about what they were using it for. Approximately two thirds of these general comments were negative. Many were not specifically about the website but they are all being followed up by the in- house team.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325216]

Dan Norris: Expenditure on external website design consultants in the last three years is shown in the following table.

	Design consultancy costs (£)
2007-08	0
2008-09	59,447
2009-10	56,979

Full external costs for the DEFRA website for this period were provided in the answer given on 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 871W to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps).

Departmental Language Coaching

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [320417]

Dan Norris: In the last 12 months 13 staff members have received foreign language coaching at a cost of £11,643.90. The coaching is provided in French, Spanish and German.

DEFRA has significant involvement in the EU policy agenda and the provision of language training for appropriate staff helps ensure that the Department can engage effectively with its European contacts.

Ministers did not receive foreign language coaching.

Departmental Legal Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its predecessors have spent in *(a)* legal fees and *(b)* compensation on legal cases concerning remuneration of its employees in each of the last 10 years. [322059]

Dan Norris: There have been no legal cases wholly concerning remuneration of employees brought against the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs or its executive agencies for the past four years. DEFRA is not able to provide data for any period prior to this. There are a number of cases concerning remuneration currently in progress but figures for these are not yet available as proceedings are still active.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies were in the last three years; and what *(a)* the cost and *(b)* purpose of each such event was. [324656]

Dan Norris: DEFRA and its agencies conduct many public events throughout the year and the costs of each are carefully managed to ensure best value for money is achieved consistent with the objectives and purpose of the event. No central record is maintained of these events.

DEFRA does not conduct hospitality events, these being precluded by the civil service code. But some hospitality, e.g. refreshments and buffets may be provided at events.

Core financial systems do not always record the specific nature of the events and as all event costs are not directly allocated to a single account, the answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

No central records are kept by DEFRA of the events conducted by its eight agencies so to collect and collate answers would also incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 974W, on departmental publications, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the last 10 editions of his Department's Landscape staff magazine. [324306]

Dan Norris: We have arranged for a copy of each of the last 10 editions of Landscape to be placed in the Library.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 801W, on departmental telephone services, whether contracts were awarded for the provision of services relating to helplines. [324112]

Dan Norris: With reference to the answer of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 801W, and from information held centrally a contract was awarded to Vertex Data Science Ltd. on 18 October 2008 for a period of five years, to expire 17 October 2013. The helpline contract provides a single point of contact for all DEFRA general inquiries.

Farming Link

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* production, printing and distribution costs and *(b)* circulation figures are of his Department's publication Farming Link. [325315]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 6 April 2010]:* Farming Link is a 16-page full-colour A4 magazine and is DEFRA's main way of communicating with farmers and growers. It is produced and distributed to 136,462 addresses four times a year. As well as a printed version, an online version is produced which includes a searchable PDF as well as individual articles.

Costs for 2009-10 were as follows:

Edition	Contractor	Cost (£)
July 2009		
Postage	Royal Mail	29,874.36
Printing and distribution	Communisis	32,476
Editorial	Specialist	16,354.15
Design	Specialist	5,299.20
Photography	Specialist	3,197
Proofing	Specialist	382.95
Travel	Specialist	253
Bi-monthly online content	Specialist	2,990
Total		90,826
October 2009		
Postage	Royal Mail	29,178.91
Printing and distribution	Communisis	32,956
Editorial	Specialist	14,221
Design	Specialist	4,608
Photography	Specialist	2,400
Proofing	Specialist	280
Travel	Specialist	150
Bi-monthly online content	Specialist	2,600
Total		86,394
January 2010		
Postage	Communisis/DSA	28,948
Printing and distribution	Communisis	32,219
Editorial	Specialist	14,221
Design	Specialist	4,608
Photography	Specialist	2,400
Proofing	Specialist	333
Travel	Specialist	297
Bi-monthly online content	Specialist	2,600
Total		85,626
March 2010		
Postage	Communisis/DSA	28,948
Printing and distribution	Communisis	32,219
Editorial	Specialist	14,221
Design	Specialist	4,608
Photography	Specialist	2,400
Proofing	Specialist	333
Travel	Specialist	297
Bi-monthly online content	Specialist	2,600
Total		85,626

Flood Control

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* homes and *(b)* businesses are registered to receive warning messages from the Environment Agency's Floodline Warnings Direct; and how many properties have received such warnings since the Floodline was established. [325838]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are 950,000 properties registered to receive warnings from the Environment Agency's Floodline Warnings Direct (FWD) service. Around 840,000 of these are homes and about 110,000 are businesses.

As of 31 March 2010, almost 150,000 properties have received warnings since FWD was established on 25 January 2006.

Horses: Passports

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many horses have been issued with passports; [324877]

(2) how many horses have *(a)* thoroughbred, *(b)* individual pony and *(c)* Horse Society passports; [324878]

(3) how many horses are recorded on the National Equine Database. [324879]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The National Equine Database shows that as of 25 March 2010, 1,204,833 passports have been issued by UK Passport Issuing Organisations (PIOs). Of these, 342, 242 were Weatherby's Thoroughbred passports. It is not possible to provide the number of "individual pony" and "horse society" passports as a number of organisations issue passports for both horses and ponies.

As of 25 March 2010 the National Equine Database contains 1,606,680 horse records. These include data taken from passports, old breeding papers issued before the introduction of passports and horse performance records which cannot yet be matched to a passport. Therefore some horses will be dead or duplicated within the system.

Nature Conservation: Expenditure

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on protecting *(a)* bats and *(b)* other protected species in the most recent year for which figures are available. [325829]

Huw Irranca-Davies: More than 300 species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, including all species of bats. These will benefit from a diverse range of funding streams and conservation effort involving the DEFRA network of organisations and with the exception of any species-specific projects, figures are not accounted for in this way. I refer to my previous answer of 22 Mar 2010, *Official Report*, column 138W, on overall biodiversity expenditure, which would include conservation of protected species.

With specific regard to bats, the UK is a party to the Agreement on the Conservation of European Bats (the Eurobats Agreement) which promotes their protection internationally and for which the UK subscription in 2010 was £59,890.68. In addition the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) contributed £87,000 to the National Bat Monitoring Programme in 2009-10. Natural England estimates that it has spent approximately £370,000 on work intended to protect bats in 2009-10.

Oils: Waste Disposal

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of waste oils has been exported to *(a)* Germany, *(b)* Italy and *(c)* other EU member states (i) in total and (ii) for re-refining in the last three years. [325730]

Dan Norris: The following tables show the data requested.

Total exported

	Italy	*Germany*	*Tonnes Other EU member states*
2007	0	257.75	6370.41
2008	0	280.24	13104.52
2009	0	5090.89	8588.16
2010	0	324.72	3250.14

Total exported for re-refining

	Italy	*Germany*	*Tonnes Other EU member states*
2007	0	257.75	4261.17
2008	0	0	5287.83
2009	0	5090.89	5884.79
2010	0	184.28	0

These data were obtained from the Environment Agency's National Transfrontier Shipments (NaTS) Database on 1 April 2010. NaTS records the details of all shipments of waste notified under the Waste Shipment Regulation (EC1013/2006/EC).

The data for 2009-10 are currently an incomplete data set so these will be subject to change as data are received.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with representatives of the waste oil regeneration industry on promotion of investment in regeneration of waste oils. [325770]

Dan Norris: DEFRA continues to maintain regular contact with the waste oil industry on a variety of issues affecting the management of waste oil.

Representatives of the waste oil processing industry are members of the Stakeholder Group relating to the transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), including the provisions in article 4 on the waste hierarchy and article 21 on waste oils. They were also involved in the Hazardous Waste Steering Group, which helped advise on the recently published Strategy for Hazardous Waste Management in England.

Informal discussions with the sector indicate that proposed investors in regeneration continue to watch the market situation in the UK and greater re-refining remains a possibility.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has undertaken a life cycle assessment of the environmental impact arising from the export of waste oils for re-refining. [325771]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has not commissioned specific studies on the life cycle assessment of the environmental impact arising from the export of waste oils for re-refining. However, we are aware of the following life cycle studies:

GEIR (Groupement Europeen de l'Industrie de la Regeneration, part of the Independent Union of the European Lubricants industry) report: Ecological and energetic assessment of re-refining used oils to base oils: Substitution of primarily produced base oils including semi-synthetic and synthetic compounds:

http://www.geir-rerefining.org/documents/LCA_en_short_version.pdf

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Working Group on Waste Prevention and Recycling report: Improving Recycling Markets:

http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/24/14/35582045.pdf

The European Commission report: Critical Review Of Existing Studies And Life Cycle Analysis On The Regeneration And Incineration Of Waste Oils:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/studies/oil/waste_oil_xsum.pdf

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department plans to take to reduce the incidence of keel bone fractures in laying hens; and if he will make a statement. [325831]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government recognise that this is a key welfare concern in laying hens, which is why DEFRA's animal welfare research programme is currently funding a three-year project by the university of Bristol on the impact of keel bone fractures on the welfare of laying hens. The aim of this study is to understand and identify risk factors associated with keel bone fractures in order to consider how to adapt production systems to improve the welfare of laying hens.

Waste Management: Business

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of *(a)* private finance initiative contracts relating to and *(b)* Government funding of residual waste plants on the ability of small businesses and community groups to set up residual waste projects. [325115]

Dan Norris: DEFRA constantly assesses the financial markets to ensure that waste private finance initiative (PFI) projects are financially viable. This includes meetings with banks, contractors and waste companies as well as individual waste local authorities. In November 2009, Officials from DEFRA's Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme (WIDP) hosted a meeting attended by representatives from some 20 banking institutions.

PFI credits are given to local waste authorities and not to individual businesses and community groups. The local waste authority will then tender for companies within the PFI's criteria.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many improvised explosive devices have *(a)* been defused and *(b)* exploded in Afghanistan in each month since 2007. [322516]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Records of incidents for the whole of Afghanistan are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, data are available for activity up to February 2010 concerning Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in the area of Helmand Province for which Task Force Helmand has responsibility. This area of responsibility has not stayed constant during the period in question.

Number of IED explosions recorded by Task Force Helmand

	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	2	24	29	89
February	6	24	30	164
March	7	30	42	—
April	9	27	27	—
May	23	35	57	—
June	23	52	102	—
July	32	51	159	—
August	16	48	114	—
September	31	43	77	—
October	24	35	67	—
November	13	38	69	—
December	20	39	70	—

The figures above refer to an explosion that has subsequently been reported by units operating within the Task Force Helmand area of responsibility. The figures include both 'laid' IEDs and suicide (both vehicle and person-borne) devices.

Number of IEDs neutralised recorded by Task Force Helmand

	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	0	16	44	61
February	0	20	54	107
March	0	14	49	—
April	1	18	67	—
May	0	33	36	—
June	3	12	142	—
July	2	22	94	—
August	6	21	113	—
September	9	32	125	—
October	3	23	88	—
November	8	48	90	—
December	14	31	132	—

The figures above refer to the recording of a device that has been located and subsequently confirmed as an IED. Action has then been taken to neutralise the device.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether full-time reserve service personnel are accommodated in married quarters at RAF Benson; and what the cost to the public purse has been of accommodating members of the regular Royal Air Force in premises away from RAF Benson in the last 12 months. [325732]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Service family accommodation (SFA) is provided to entitled regular service personnel and full-time reserve service (FTRS) full commitment (FC) reservists. However, there are no FTRS FC personnel occupying SFA at RAF Benson.

FTRS limited commitment (LC) personnel do not have an entitlement to SFA, but are eligible to apply for surplus SFA and pay full market rent for occupancy. There is one FTRS LC occupying surplus SFA at RAF Benson, which was surplus when the officer moved in and attracts a full market rent. Exceptionally, given this officer's key role as a family liaison officer, he has not been required to move.

Substitute service family accommodation (SSFA) is only ever used as a last resort in cases where service accommodation either does not exist, or is not available to entitlement. Families allocated SSFA may be invited to move to SFA should it subsequently become available. Given the associated disruption to families and the potential impact on schooling, personnel and their families are not obliged to move.

There are currently 33 families occupying SSFA in the Benson area. The rental cost to the Ministry of Defence for these families over the last 12 months was around £460,000. A more accurate figure cannot be given as properties are vacated at various times.

Cluster Munitions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a public announcement when the last US cluster munitions have been removed from the UK. [325695]

Bill Rammell: The United States has identified the cluster munitions that it holds on United Kingdom territory as exceeding its worldwide operational planning requirements. We expect that all US cluster munitions will be removed from sites in the UK this year and from all UK territories by 2013 (as declared by Baroness Kinnock during the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill Second Reading in the House of Lords on the 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1020). A statement will be made to confirm the removal of US cluster munitions at that time.

Departmental Data Protection

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents of the loss of confidential data held by his Department have been reported *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in each of the last 12 months. [321731]

Bill Rammell: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) takes any attacks on, or misuse of, its information, networks and associated media storage devices very seriously and has robust procedures in place to mitigate against and investigate such occurrences. Furthermore, new processes, instructions and technological aids are continually being implemented to mitigate human errors and raise the awareness of every individual in the Department with regards to cyber security.

The following tables provide details of the number of reported losses of confidential and personal data centrally reported within the Department from 2005 to 2010.

Figures will continue to be adjusted to incorporate subsequent recoveries of items, the reporting of additional losses and subsequent clarification of historic incidents. The following figures reflect the latest data held as of 10 March 2010.

In a number of these cases the documents were historical and so the original protective marking would have been eligible to be considered for downgrading. This would certainly reduce any risk of compromise. A number of these incidents came to light as a consequence of thorough housekeeping activities and revised MOD data management practices. It is likely that a large number of instances relate to records of the destruction of documents not being accurately maintained, rather than documents actually having gone missing.

Reported incidents of the loss of confidential data in each of the last five years

	Total
2005	77
2006	130
2007	52
2008	1099
2009	347

The surge in reported incidents from 2008 is largely attributable to two factors. Firstly, there is an increased awareness of the need to report data loss across the Department. Secondly, since the publication of the Data Handling Review and Burton Report, the MOD is now auditing its holdings of both personal data and removable media. This has identified a number of instances where the location of data could not be verified and has therefore been reported as a possible loss—even though in many cases they may have merely been unaccounted for or incorrectly disposed of.

Reported incidents of the loss of confidential data in each of the last 12 months

Month	Total
2009	
March	10
April	34
May	24
June	19
July	20
August	32
September	94
October	25
November	21
December	65
2010	
January	23
February	48

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* disciplinary and *(b)* capability procedures have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed in his Department in each of the last five years; how much time on average was taken to complete each type of procedure in each such year; how many and what proportion of his Department's staff were subject to each type of procedure in each such year; and how many and what proportion of each type of procedure resulted in the dismissal of the member of staff. [320637]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held in the format requested. Prior to April 2007 all cases were managed locally and data on the number of cases initiated are not available. Information on average time taken to complete each type of procedure is not recorded, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In the Ministry of Defence, if an individual's performance is identified as unsatisfactory they may be subject to the Restoring Efficiency process, which involves warning the individual, encouraging improvement, and allowing a reasonable opportunity to improve. If a satisfactory performance is not achieved the individual may be dismissed or downgraded.

The number of Restoring Efficiency and disciplinary procedures initiated in each financial year and the number of dismissals in the same period—but which might include cases initiated in the previous financial year—was as follows.

	Restoring Efficiency		*Disciplinary procedures*		
	Initiated	*Dismissals*	*Initiated*	*Dismissals*	*Number of civil servants*
2004-05	n/k	12	n/k	59	79,900
2005-06	n/k	12	n/k	47	79,700
2006-07	n/k	12	n/k	58	75,800
2007-08	89	4	87	50	71,400
2008-09	92	2	108	60	66,700

n/k = Not known

These figures include staff in MOD agencies but exclude trading funds and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

There is also a range of disciplinary penalties less than dismissal: Reprimand; Restitution; Loss of one, five or 10 day's pay; Downgrading with a ban on promotion for up to three years.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [322073]

Bill Rammell: The requested information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff of his Department presently employed in Kentigern House in Glasgow are engaged *(a)* solely on duties relating to military staff based in Scotland and *(b)* on duties relating to (i) military and (ii) civilian staff based (A) elsewhere in the UK and (B) overseas. [325857]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Publications

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to place in the Library a copy of the most recent report of the Chief of the General Staff's briefing team. [325551]

Bill Rammell: In accordance with the conventions which govern the conduct of government during the pre-election period, the report will be placed in the Library of the House as soon as possible in the next parliamentary term.

Gurkhas

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how often the cross-departmental Gurkha working group has met; and what Government departments are represented on the group; [325684]

(2) what *(a)* written and *(b)* other information is provided to Gurkha veterans seeking advice at his Department's resettlement office in Kathmandu, Nepal; [325685]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to inform the Gurkha veteran population in Nepal of their rights of settlement in the United Kingdom; [325686]

(4) how much funding is available for his Department's resettlement office in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2010-11. [325687]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Cross-Departmental Working Group was set up in June 2009 and has met formally on three occasions, twice in 2009 and once so far this year. As well as the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the UK Border Agency (UKBA), the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the Department for Communities and Local Government, (DCLG), the Department of Health, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Cabinet Office, the Foreign Office and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs are members of the Working Group.

The Working Group has also consulted with a wide range of welfare organisations in the course of its work, including the main Service charities: the Gurkha Welfare Trust; the Royal British Legion; ABF The Soldiers' Charity; the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association; and Veterans Aid.

The Gurkha Settlement Office in Kathmandu opened in October 2009 and to date has had nearly 5,000 visits from ex-Gurkhas and their families. The Government of Nepal and all ex-service organisations were briefed by MOD about the role of the office which is to provide free help and assistance with the settlement process. This includes information and education about life in the UK in order for the ex-Gurkhas to make an informed choice about settlement, and if they decide to apply for a visa help and advice filling out the visa form, help with finding and completing supporting documentation and a fast tracking system for issuing National Insurance numbers which facilitates claiming benefits in the UK. DCLG are setting up a housing advice centre in the UK to help find appropriate housing and will offer a bond to landlords in lieu of the required rental deposit. The UKBA have also introduced a new stamp on the visa which allows DWP to identify ex-Gurkhas who do not need to satisfy the Habitual Residence Test before benefits can be paid.

In November 2009 and January this year several hundred ex-Gurkha representatives in Nepal were briefed by a joint MOD/UKBA team about the benefits of using the Kathmandu settlement office. A further communications exercise and additional consultation and briefings are planned in April. It is also intended to forward base some of the settlement office staff from Kathmandu to the east and west of Nepal to try and reach those who might not be able to travel to Kathmandu.

A booklet in English and Nepali that explains the cost of living in the UK has been produced at the request of the ex-service organisations, and an updated and more comprehensive book about life in the UK will be issued in Nepal in April. The book, developed in association with ex-servicemen, the service charities and local authorities contains a wealth of information about living in the UK.

To date, the cost of setting up and staffing the Settlement Office is some £20,000 and a similar budget has been earmarked for 2010-11.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff his Department and its agencies have appointed who were later discovered to be illegal immigrants since 2005. [320442]

Mr. Kevan Jones: People employed to work in Government Departments and their agencies, either directly or through a contractor, are required to satisfy requirements on identity, nationality and immigration status prior to the offer of employment. Only two employees of the MOD have been convicted of being illegal immigrants over the last five years.

Military Aircraft: Operating Costs

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average total operating cost per flight hour for the *(a)* Hawk 128 Advanced Jet Trainer, *(b)* E-3D Sentry AEW1, *(c)* Hercules C-130J, *(d)* C-17 Globemaster III and *(e)* MQ-9 Reaper was in the latest period for which figures are available. [325233]

Bill Rammell: The average operating cost per hour for E-3D Sentry, Hercules C-130J, and C-17 Globemaster, for financial year 2009-10, is provided in the following table. The cost includes forward and depth servicing, fuel, crew and training costs and the cost of capital charge, depreciation and other overheads.

Aircraft	Approx cost (£ per hour)
E-3D Sentry AEW1	33,000
Hercules C-130J	12,000
C-17 Globemaster III	42,000

The Hawk 128 Advanced Jet Trainer is in the process of being introduced into service and has only flown 450 hours in FY 2009-10. A mature estimate of flying hour costs will only be available once it is fully in-service which is not expected until 2012-13.

The average operating cost per hour for the Reaper Urgent Operational Requirement is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will set out details of the transitional arrangements to provide *(a)* a long range maritime search and rescue capability and *(b)* a long range anti-submarine warfare capability between the time the Nimrod MR2 was withdrawn from service and the entering into full operational capability of the Nimrod MRA4; and how long he expects that transitional period to last. [325791]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 7 April 2010]:* The Nimrod MR2 provided a state-of-the-art Long Range Search and Rescue (LR SAR) capability. The Nimrod MRA4 will bring a substantially more capable aircraft into the RAF's fleet.

In the period of transition until the MRA4 achieves its initial operating capability, we intend to make every effort to ensure that we are able to provide a response to the most serious SAR incidents, using other assets, as available, in the long-range search and rescue role. No specific aircraft has been allocated to the LR SAR task; our response to any particular SAR incident will be dependent on aircraft and crew availability, taking account of other high priority operational tasks.

Nimrod MRA4 deliveries began in March this year and initial operating capability, including for LR SAR operations, is planned to be achieved by October 2012, with some ad hoc capability available before that date.

I cannot comment on long range anti-submarine warfare capability for reasons of national security.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has undertaken costings of the policies of the *(a)* Conservative Party and *(b)* Liberal Democrat Party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months. [324239]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury on 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1044W.

RFA Darkdale

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will take steps to remove the fuel, oil and ammunition from RFA Darkdale after its sinking in James Bay, St Helena; and if he will make a statement; [325669]

(2) if he will ensure that RFA Black Rover during its visit to St Helena in May *(a)* provides oil spill equipment to deal with oil leaks from the sunken RFA Darkdale and *(b)* assists with clean-up operations; and if he will make a statement. [325671]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence is working with other Government Departments to assess the options following the recent oil leak from the former Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel Darkdale which sank during World War II. A full survey of the wreck will be required to determine whether the removal of fuel, oil and ammunition is the most appropriate course of action. Before the survey work can begin, a risk assessment is being carried out based on current knowledge of Darkdale and the recent oil leak. This will determine the nature and degree of risk involved in carrying out the full survey.

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel Black Rover is neither suitably equipped nor has suitably qualified crew members to assist with any operation to clean up the recent oil leak, which is specialised work. However, depending on the outcome of the aforementioned risk assessment, Black Rover may be used to transport a survey team and specialist equipment to St. Helena.

Territorial Army: Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army recruits in Northern Ireland have been waiting to commence phase one recruit training since September 2009; and when it is expected they will all have received such training. [325864]

Bill Rammell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons Territorial Army potential officer training was transferred from the Regional Training Centre in Ballykinler to Queen's University. [325870]

Bill Rammell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what methodology her Office used to determine whether answers to Questions in the formulation "if she will set out with statistical information related as directly as possible to the tabling hon. Members' constituency the effects on that constituency of her Department's policies since 1997" could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost; and if she will make a statement. [323871]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive seeks to answer all parliamentary questions that do not incur disproportionate cost. Disproportionate cost is determined via a disproportionate cost threshold (DCT).

The current DCT is £800, announced in Parliament by HM Treasury on the 20 January 2010.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the cost was of building the freight facility at the main Olympic site. [323339]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has constructed a temporary wharf on the Waterworks River for the construction phase of the programme to provide contractors with the opportunity to move material into and out of the Park by water. The construction cost of this is £1.86 million (excluding VAT). This figure includes the costs of the pontoons, moorings, pilings, hard-standing, vehicle access and river wall protection.

Olympic Games 2012: Voluntary Work

Tom Levitt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will take steps to reduce the minimum age for Olympic volunteers from 18 to 16 years. [325657]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Limited (LOCOG) is responsible for the London 2012 Volunteer Programme, to provide up to 70,000 volunteers for the Games. LOCOG has set the lower age limit for the programme at 18 after considering extensive legal advice and practical operational constraints at games-time, which include: the number of hours under 18s can legally work; the associated management to comply with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006; and, the commitment of volunteers to undertake a set number of shifts that can finish late at night.

LOCOG's Get Set education programme provides an excellent route for those under 18 to get involved in 2012-inspired activity, as do Inspire Mark projects and London 2012 Open Weekend events held in communities across the UK.

HEALTH

Abortion

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many repeat abortions women aged *(a)* under 20, *(b)* 20 to 24, *(c)* 25 to 29, *(d)* 30 to 34 and *(e)* 35 years old and over had in each area contained in current strategic health authority region boundaries in each of the last 10 years. [325824]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 51W. The information requested was placed in the Library on 18 March 2010.

Burnley Hospital

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on providing building and services at Burnley General Hospital in *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue terms in each of the last 10 years; and how much is projected to be spent in each such category in each of the next five years. [325827]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. However, capital expenditure on buildings and dwellings for the East Lancashire Hospitals Trust (which includes Burnley General Hospital) for the years 2002-03 to 2008-09 is shown in the following table:

£000

	Tangible fixed assets—Purchased additions	
	Buildings excluding dwellings	Dwellings
2008-09	5,472	141
2007-08	8,305	0
2006-07	7,081	0
2005-06	5,195	0
2004-05	3,922	0
2003-04	4,350	0
2002-03	2,246	0

The forecast total capital expenditure outturn for the whole trust for 2009-10 is £22.3 million, of which £12.5 million is expected to be spent on buildings (excluding dwellings).

Information on revenue expenditure in respect of premises costs for the East Lancashire Hospitals Trust from 2002-03 to 2008-09 for the trust is shown in the following table:

	Operating expenses—premises (£000)
2008-09	26,191
2007-08	23,989
2006-07	21,995
2005-06	12,443
2004-05	6,667
2003-04	7,568
2002-03	7,891

Notes:

1. The Department only holds accounting data at organisation level for seven years, therefore 2002-03 is the earliest information available.
2. The operating expenses represent the amounts included in the operating expenses of East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust for "premises" between 2002-03 and 2008-09.
3. East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust was operational from 1 April 2003, therefore the 2002-03 figures are the aggregate of its two predecessor bodies—Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Health Care NHS Trust and Burnley Health Care NHS Trust.
4. In the audited summarisation schedules, "premises" includes expenditure on utilities (such as electricity and gas), other fuels, water and sewerage, external general services and contracts, furniture, office and computer equipment, computer hardware and maintenance contracts, business rates, rent, building and engineering equipment and contracts.

Source:

2002-03 to 2008-09 figures—NHS Trusts Audited Summarisation Schedules 2002-03 to 2008-09.

Cervical Cancer

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance he has issued to primary care trusts on the use of full pelvic examinations in cases of suspected cervical cancer; [325888]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken on the detection and diagnosis of cervical cancer (i) in general and (ii) among those aged between 20 and 24 years in the last 12 months. [325889]

Ann Keen: "Clinical Practice Guidance for the Assessment of Young Women aged 20-24 with Abnormal Vaginal Bleeding" was issued through the Department of Health's GP and Practice Team Bulletin and Chief Nursing Officer's Bulletin in March 2010. The guidance, developed by the independent Advisory Committee on Cervical Screening (ACCS), re-emphasises the importance of pelvic examinations in young women with abnormal vaginal bleeding and provides primary care practitioners with an easy to follow algorithm to help in their management of these young women. A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library.

Regarding research on the detection and diagnosis of cervical cancer in general and among those aged between 20 and 24 years in the last 12 months, NHS Cancer Screening Programmes provided funding of £52,000 in 2009-10 to Cancer Research UK on the ongoing audit of invasive cervical cancers. This included funding for specially commissioned work on younger women to inform the ACCS review of cervical screening in May 2009.

In addition, in autumn 2009 the Department commissioned the "What Women Know" survey to assess the current levels of knowledge about cervical cancer among women in England. The survey was carried out as part of an initiative in collaboration with the Eve Appeal and University College London's Health Behaviour Research Centre. It covered awareness of the symptoms and risk factors for cervical cancer, knowledge of the cervical screening and human papillomavirus vaccination programmes, anticipated barriers to seeking medical help with a possible cervical cancer symptom, and beliefs about screening and other protective behaviours.

The Department has also provided £4,000 to Jo's Trust, a charity that raises awareness of cervical cancer, to undertake a pilot to assess the potential for using television advertisements in general practitioner surgeries to improve uptake of cervical screening invitations.

Depressive Illnesses: Health Services

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts provide services for clinical depression; and if he will make a statement. [325890]

Phil Hope: We do not collect these data centrally. The provision of local health services is a decision for primary care trusts and their strategic health authorities. Clinicians are best placed to decide what services their local communities need and how they are provided.

E Coli

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on reducing the chances of an E. coli outbreak in the last three years. [325828]

Gillian Merron: As humans may be infected by *E. coli* O157 through a variety of routes there are several different Government Departments that contribute to reducing the chances of an outbreak. Humans may become infected when they consume contaminated food or water, by direct or indirect contact with animals that carry *E. coli* O157 or from exposure to an environment contaminated with animals' faeces, such as farms and similar premises with animals which are open to the public.

The costs of reducing the chances of both foodborne and non-foodborne *E. coli* O157 outbreaks are contained within the core budgets of the Department of Health, Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and are not separately identifiable. For example, the FSA does not collect data on the amount of spend that can be assigned to *E. coli* official controls in isolation from other official controls on the microbiological safety of food. In addition to core funding, both DEFRA and the FSA fund research to enhance our understanding of human infection caused by *E. coli* O157.

General Practitioners: Denton

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs were practising in Denton and Reddish constituency in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [325850]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The data requested are not available in the format required. However, information on the number of general practitioners (GPs) (excluding retainers and registrars) between 2002-09 at Stockport Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Tameside and Glossop PCT is shown in the following table:

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Stockport PCT	170	177	182	186	190	195	195
Tameside and Glossop PCT	120	117	124	131	134	128	145
Total specified organisations	290	294	306	317	324	323	340

Notes:
1. GP data are not available at constituency level. Denton and Reddish constituency is contained within and serviced by Stockport PCT and Tameside and Glossop PCT.
2. Prior to 2002, PCTs did not exist. It is not possible to map these organisations back prior to 2002 with any degree of accuracy.
3. Data as at 30 September for each year.
4. The Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:
Information Centre for health and social care - General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Health Services: Prisoners

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Isle of Wight on 4 November 2009, what steps have been taken to ensure that local health authorities are reimbursed for the additional costs of guarding prisoners who require health care outside prison. [325894]

Phil Hope: There have been no recent changes to the funding responsibilities of national health service primary care trusts (PCTs) for their prison health care escorts and bedwatches activity.

Responsibility for commissioning health services in publicly run prisons in England has been fully devolved to NHS PCTs since 2006, with significantly increased funding. Subsequently, the responsibility and funding for escorts and bedwatch costs transferred from HM Prison Service to PCTs in April 2008.

This decision followed the outcome of a 12-month audit of prison health care escorts and bedwatches activity in all prisons in England and Wales, and a pilot in 10 prisons of options for future funding and management of escorts and bedwatches.

Escorts and bedwatches costs are determined by a fixed tariff previously agreed by HM Prison Service and the NHS. Baseline funding is provided for within the NHS bundle, which is the Department's mechanism for the distribution of core funding to strategic health authorities.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have contracted *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* other hospital-acquired infections in NHS hospitals in Shropshire in the last five years. [325402]

Ann Keen: Information on all healthcare associated infections (HCAIs) is not collected centrally. The mandatory surveillance system collects data on the following from acute trusts only: methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemias; *Clostridium difficile* infections (CDIs); glycopeptide-resistant enterococci bacteraemias (GREs); and selected orthopaedic surgical site infections (SSIs).

Surveillance data, including monthly MRSA and CDI information, are available on the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1244763936373

Information on MRSA, for the time period requested, is shown in the following table. All cases of MRSA bacteraemia are reported, meaning that the reports include infections both acquired in hospital and elsewhere.

	Financial year					
Trust	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Five-year total*
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	2	0	2	0	0	4
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	47	39	49	35	16	186
Total	49	39	51	35	16	190

Note:
Data include infections, which may have been acquired in the community.
Source:
HPA

Up to 2007, cases of CDI in people aged 65 or over were reported. This information for the time period requested, is shown in the following table.

	Financial year					
Trust	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Five-year total*
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	8	11	10	4 (4)	6 (6)	39
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	246	203	336	314 (174)	189 (76)	1,288
Total	254	214	346	318 (178)	195 (82)	1,327

Note:
Total number of reports given; figures in parentheses are 'Trust apportioned' cases (presumed to be hospital acquired).
Source:
HPA.

From 2007-08, CDI cases in those aged two or over were reported, plus those presumed to be hospital acquired (trust apportioned) were identified. This information for the time period requested, is shown in the following table

	Financial year		
Trust	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Two-year total*
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	8	6	14
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	208	94	302

Trust	Financial year 2007-08	2008-09	Two-year total
Total	216	100	316

Note:
The figures presented are 'Trust apportioned', referring to infections that are presumed to be hospital acquired.
Source:
HPA.

Information on GRE bacteraemias, for the time period requested, is shown in the following table.

Trust	Year[1] 2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	7	6	3
Total	7	6	3

[1] Data from 1 October to 30 September. The trusts did not submit data for 2007-08, and 2008-09 data are not yet published.
Source:
HPA.
Information on SSIs, from 2004-09, is available on the HPA's website at:
www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1259151994683

Hospitals: Patients

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients of each ethnicity there were in *(a)* Arnold Lodge, *(b)* Ashworth Hospital, *(c)* Auckland Park Hospital, *(d)* Barnsley Hall Hospital, *(e)* Barnwood House Hospital, *(f)* Bedford Lunatic Asylum, *(g)* Bethlem Royal Hospital, *(h)* Bootham Park Hospital, *(i)* Broadmoor Hospital, *(j)* Brookwood Hospital, *(k)* Bushey Fields Hospital, *(l)* Central Hospital, Hatton, *(m)* Cheadle Royal Hospital, *(n)* Colney Hatch Lunatic Asylum, *(o)* Earls House Hospital, *(p)* Epsom Cluster, *(q)* Fairfield Hospital (Arlesey), *(r)* Fulbourn Hospital, *(s)* Haleacre Unit, *(t)* Hampshire County Lunatic Asylum, *(u)* Hanwell Asylum, *(v)* Hellingly Hospital, *(w)* Holloway Sanatorium, *(x)* Leavesden Mental Hospital, *(y)* Long Grove Hospital, *(z)* Longview Psychiatric Unit, *(aa)* Loring Hall, *(bb)* Manchester Royal Lunatic Asylum, *(cc)* Mary Dendy Hospital, *(dd)* Maudsley Hospital, *(ee)* Michael Rutter Centre for Children and Adolescents, *(ff)* Napsbury, *(gg)* Northfield Hospital, *(hh)* Northgate Hospital, *(ii)* Oakwood Hospital, *(jj)* Park Prewett, *(kk)* Powick Hospital, *(ll)* Rampton Secure Hospital, *(mm)* The Retreat, *(nn)* Royal Earlswood Hospital, *(oo)* St. Andrew's Hospital, *(pp)* St. Ann's Hospital, *(qq)* St. Ann's Hospital (Dorset), *(rr)* St. Crispins Hospital, *(ss)* St. Luke's Hospital (Middlesbrough), *(tt)* St. Michael's Hospital (Warwick), *(uu)* Severalls Hospital, *(vv)* Springfield Hospital, *(ww)* Stone House Hospital, *(xx)* Tindal Centre, *(yy)* Warlingham Park Hospital, *(zz)* Warneford Hospital, *(aaa)* West London Mental Health NHS Trust, *(bbb)* West Park Asylum and *(ccc)* Winterton Hospital as at 1 March 2010. [325843]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally. National Information about the ethnicity of mental health in-patients is collected and published by the Care Quality Commission through its Count Me In census programme.

Tuberculosis: Screening

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department has taken to ensure the effectiveness of tuberculosis screening programmes of incoming visitors at *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* Gatwick airports; [325752]

(2) how many qualified medical staff are employed at each UK airport for the purpose of screening incoming visitors for tuberculosis; [325753]

(3) how much his Department has spent on the provision of *(a)* x-ray equipment for tuberculosis screening at UK airports and *(b)* salaries of staff conducting such screening in each year since 2004. [325754]

Gillian Merron: The Department has provided capital funding of £8 million for the Health Protection Agency (HPA) to install new digital x-ray machines at Gatwick and Heathrow to replace the old ones in a phased programme across 2008-09. These have been installed and are fully functioning.

In addition, an electronic notification system for results of screening is being piloted across the country to replace the paper notification system.

Medical inspectors are employed at two airports (Gatwick and Heathrow) for the purposes of tuberculosis (TB) screening. At Heathrow there are currently 4.8 permanent whole-time equivalent (WTE) plus locum staff (approximately 1.5 further WTE). At Gatwick, there are two WTE plus one WTE locum staff. At other airports, the medical inspection function is fulfilled on a part-time contract basis.

Funding for medical inspection function since 2004 has been provided by primary care trusts and the HPA under various local arrangements, some in partnership with local authorities. Details of such funding, and staff deployment, are not collected centrally.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Fuel Poverty

18. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects figures to be available on the level of fuel poverty in the UK in 2008. [325628]

Mr. Kidney: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Lichfield (Michael Fabricant) earlier today.

Carbon Emissions: Advertising

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what procedures his Department has put in place to evaluate the effectiveness of the Act on Carbon Dioxide advertising campaign; and if he will make a statement. [323816]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 23 March 2010]:* The Act On CO_2 advertising campaign is designed to encourage individuals to make the changes in behaviour necessary to reduce carbon emissions, and mitigate the effects of climate change. The Department evaluates the campaign using a range of measures: Pre and post campaign omnibus surveys to assess shifts in awareness, attitudes and claimed behaviour; number of website visits, indicating the degree to which the campaign has generated a desire among the public to find out more; click-through rates from online display advertisements; where applicable, number of telephone calls generated; number of visits to the Act On CO_2 carbon calculator and assessment from third party partners of the success of the campaign.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the UK's participation in the Copenhagen climate change summit. [316866]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for East Antrim (Sammy Wilson) on 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 630-31W, and the hon. Member for Angus (Mr. Weir) on 21 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 468W.

Since 1999 the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. From 2007-08 the list was extended to include all Ministers. The list also provides information on the number of officials who accompany Ministers. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2009-10 will be published as soon as the information is available.

Electricity Generation

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the additional electricity generating capacity required by 2020. [325617]

Mr. Kidney: Under central modelling assumptions, it is estimated we will need about 43 gigawatts (GW) net of new electricity generation capacity by 2020.

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the additional electricity generating capacity required by 2020. [325618]

Mr. Kidney: In addition to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Blaby (Mr. Robathan) earlier today, taking into account planned closures of existing power plants and other factors such as the renewables targets, modelling suggests we might need around 100 GW of total capacity in 2020. In a typical year now peak consumption will be around 60 GW and total available supply around 80 GW.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the additional electricity generating capacity required by 2020. [325626]

Mr. Kidney: Under central modelling assumptions, it is estimated we will need about 43 gigawatts (GW) net of new electricity generation capacity by 2020.

Environment Protection: West Midlands

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance the EU has provided to the West Midlands for the development of green *(a)* technologies and *(b)* jobs in the last two years. [325240]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

The following projects have been approved to date under Priority Axis 1 of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2007-13 programme which supports Innovation and Research and Development. The programme is administered in the West Midlands by Advantage West Midlands.

Energy Efficiency—£4.94 million

Low Carbon Vehicle Technology—£9.50 million (This project is expected to safeguard 2,150 jobs)

A number of general innovation/R and D support projects (including Knowledge Transfer Partnerships) have also been supported some of which include a focus on green technologies and jobs. Funding of over £15 million has been approved to date.

Under Priority Axis 2 of the 2007-13 ERDF programme which focuses on stimulating enterprise development the following projects have been approved to date:

Competitiveness through Collaboration—£184,315 for an Environmental Technologies Supply Chain Network for the rural west of the region.

West Midlands Industrial Symbiosis Network—£1,054,302 to develop links between companies so that under-used resources such as energy, water and/or materials from one are recovered, reprocessed and then re-used by others. The project is expected to create 40 jobs and safeguard 82.

Rethink Energy—£1,005,335 funding to support Small to Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to undertake feasibility studies and install renewable energy technologies. The project is expected to create an additional 12 jobs.

Enviro Supply chain network—£283,306 to encourage manufacturing SMEs to work together to improve environmental processes. The project is expected to create 15 jobs.

Further funding has also been provided for other projects which support business development or innovation which will include support to those involved in green technologies.

Under the EU-funded Rural Development Programme for England (RPDE) programme the following projects which support green technologies and jobs have been approved so far in the 2007-13 programming period:

Certainly Wood—£403,000 approved for capital equipment support to a wood fuel business.

Freshfields Fruit LLP—£265,000 approved for capital equipment support to a strawberry growing business for water harvesting and recycling.

West Midlands Woodfuel Project—£827,000 approved for revenue support to West Midlands forestry wood fuel businesses.

It is not possible to report on jobs created or safeguarded by these projects at this stage.

There are also a number of RDPE initiatives supporting farm diversification and rural enterprises which may support green technologies and jobs.

Further support will be provided during the later stages of the programmes.

No specific indicators were set for green jobs or technologies in the West Midlands 2000-06 Objective 2 Programme. A total of 2,769 businesses were, however, assisted with environmental management as part of the Programme's Environmental Sustainability theme.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has undertaken costings of the policies of the *(a)* Conservative Party and *(b)* Liberal Democrat Party at the request of Ministers or special advisers since its inception. [324244]

Mr. Kidney: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary on 30 March 2010, *Official Report,* column 1913W.

Public Buildings: Energy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether there are mechanisms in place to assist the provision of energy efficiency measures and equipment in *(a)* community centres, *(b)* public halls, *(c)* social clubs and *(d)* other community facilities; and what recent representations he has received from community representatives on those matters. [323344]

Joan Ruddock: The Low Carbon Communities Challenge (LCCC) is a two-year research programme funded by DECC providing financial and practical support to 22 "test-bed" communities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The purpose of the challenge is to test delivery options for achieving ambitious cuts in carbon emissions at community level.

Communities selected will be providing energy efficiency improvements to public buildings, including community centres and schools. The LCCC will provide replicable models of what works at a community level, which can inform future Government policy and inspire action in other communities across the country.

The Department receives a variety of correspondence relating to energy efficiency matters.

Warm Front Scheme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 3 March 2010, Official Report, column 1205W, on energy: housing, what the cost of the Warm Front pilots cited in the Answer has been to date. [324843]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows the total spend to date on Warm Front pilots including Solar Thermal and Air Source Heat Pumps[1].

Pilot	*Cost excluding VAT (£)*
Solar thermal	285,171.54
Air source heat pumps	140,396.00
Total	425,567.54

At the present time, there has been no money spent on the pilot for the external wall insulation of park homes as work is being planned with customers but has yet to be installed.

[1] To 21 March 2010

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crimes of Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* most, *(b)* less and *(c)* summary violent offences were recorded in each police force area in each year since 2002-03; and how many people were convicted of violent offences of each type in each of those years. [319820]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* Information is not available in the requested format. The available information relates to offences of violence against the person with and without injury and is given in Tables 1 and 2. Summary offences of assault without injury are included within the violence against the person without injury grouping. Summary offences without injury are "assault without injury on a constable", "assault without injury", and "racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury". Separate figures for these offences are given in Table 3.

These police recorded crime data relate to the number of offences recorded in each financial year.

In April 2002, the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced. This brought in a more victim-focused reporting system, where victim accounts had to be accepted unless there was credible evidence to the contrary. It took some forces several years to adjust to the new recording practice, meaning that comparisons from 2002-03 to 2008-09 should be treated with caution.

Home Office statisticians advise that the British Crime Survey (BCS) is the best guide to long-term trends for the crime types it covers because it has a consistent methodology and is unaffected by levels of reporting or police recording. However, the BCS is not designed to provide robust estimates of different crimes at police force area.

Annual BCS figures are estimates based on data from the interviews carried out in the previous 12 months. Estimates for the violent crimes covered by the survey show a 22 per cent. fall in England and Wales from 2002-03 to 2008-09. Over the same period, police recorded crime figures show a 7 per cent. increase in violence against the person offences.

Conviction data have been provided by the Ministry of Justice and relate to the number of offenders. These data are published on a calendar year basis and are counts of persons classified by their principal offence.

As the data come from different sources and are reported on different periods, the two datasets are not comparable.

Information on the offenders dealt with by the Criminal Justice System does not necessarily reflect wider trends for characteristics of perpetrators of crimes, where often an offender will not be apprehended.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences of violence against the person, by type and police force area, from 2002 to 2008 (latest available), can be viewed in the Tables 4, 5, and 6.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in autumn 2010.

Table 1: Recorded offences of violence against the person with injury, 2002-03 to 2008-09

Police force	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	8,586	12,371	14,097	13,699	13,294	13,061	11,492
Bedfordshire	4,431	5,026	5,618	5,614	5,113	4,446	4,085
British Transport Police	2,231	2,850	3,242	3,517	2,841	2,562	2,529
Cambridgeshire	4,038	6,144	6,195	5,201	4,848	4,523	4,692
Cheshire	4,127	4,516	5,455	11,169	9,125	7,676	6,925
Cleveland	2,702	3,879	6,711	7,354	6,115	5,468	4,922
Cumbria	3,046	3,728	4,994	4,670	4,167	3,836	3,270
Derbyshire	10,160	11,434	12,014	11,441	11,009	10,933	8,734
Devon and Cornwall	13,471	14,577	15,568	14,075	13,211	12,246	11,088
Dorset	2,713	4,304	5,194	5,872	5,146	4,692	5,010
Durham	2,344	2,343	2,675	5,557	5,191	4,775	3,679
Dyfed-Powys	3,178	4,209	4,143	3,842	3,592	2,880	2,672
Essex	12,539	13,977	13,569	13,254	11,953	10,861	9,628
Gloucestershire	2,841	4,288	5,359	5,251	4,575	3,734	3,471
Greater Manchester	30,712	33,196	29,710	27,988	27,580	23,858	22,424
Gwent	6,972	6,621	7,087	7,101	6,655	6,013	5,823
Hampshire	7,339	11,607	14,369	13,427	14,728	15,393	15,152
Hertfordshire	3,312	4,882	8,494	7,706	7,064	5,496	4,963
Humberside	9,257	12,704	12,975	13,230	12,870	9,089	8,727
Kent	8,048	9,899	12,870	14,801	14,360	12,721	11,961
Lancashire	8,499	14,950	15,666	15,026	13,953	13,228	12,105
Leicestershire	5,682	7,106	9,597	9,390	9,135	8,617	7,837
Lincolnshire	4,889	5,709	5,804	5,295	4,566	3,958	3,856
London, City of	298	286	298	263	273	351	343
Merseyside	12,719	16,783	18,573	17,028	13,098	9,798	8,214
Metropolitan Police	44,387	45,151	71,958	86,020	79,698	73,302	71,462
Norfolk	4,309	5,565	5,838	5,871	5,229	4,577	3,773
Northamptonshire	5,127	7,010	6,571	6,694	5,752	5,418	4,857
Northumbria	7,910	15,169	14,067	12,773	13,358	11,033	10,488
North Wales	6,377	6,498	6,948	6,505	5,630	4,204	4,315
North Yorkshire	2,012	3,245	6,546	6,352	5,512	4,448	4,324
Nottinghamshire	10,659	12,076	12,755	14,538	13,049	10,985	11,814
South Wales	10,657	11,123	10,568	11,835	10,387	10,442	10,104
South Yorkshire	5,024	5,605	7,180	16,212	16,730	14,699	12,643
Staffordshire	9,805	12,449	13,290	12,597	12,224	9,731	9,733
Suffolk	3,677	4,596	5,075	5,102	4,631	3,902	4,008
Surrey	4,636	4,985	5,288	5,913	5,317	5,128	4,586
Sussex	6,097	12,008	14,439	13,371	12,140	9,862	8,355
Thames Valley	10,771	12,699	15,561	15,619	14,765	14,180	14,547
Warwickshire	2,232	4,111	3,753	3,936	3,809	3,746	3,044
West Mercia	10,142	11,079	10,483	9,601	9,165	8,538	7,722
West Midlands	32,443	35,760	34,842	36,465	36,579	33,216	29,575
West Yorkshire	18,366	27,432	25,997	27,813	22,991	20,214	18,216
Wiltshire	3,359	3,872	3,830	4,617	5,166	4,478	3,797
England and Wales	372,124	457,822	515,266	543,605	506,594	452,318	420,965

Table 2: Recorded offences of violence against the person without injury, 2002-03 to 2008-09

Police force	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	12,153	14,159	17,365	16,797	17,587	14,086	15,101
Bedfordshire	3,667	3,781	4,519	4,192	4,026	3,153	3,166

Table 2: Recorded offences of violence against the person without injury, 2002-03 to 2008-09

Police force	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
British Transport Police	7,945	8,632	9,872	10,864	13,291	12,963	12,971
Cambridgeshire	8,536	7,519	7,163	4,957	5,573	5,773	5,224
Cheshire	6,575	9,558	10,153	7,348	8,144	7,428	7,244
Cleveland	3,580	5,320	4,941	6,958	7,813	7,447	5,740
Cumbria	2,679	3,146	4,201	4,536	4,020	4,219	3,843
Derbyshire	5,253	4,963	4,570	4,519	5,056	5,796	5,625
Devon and Cornwall	10,249	11,392	12,767	11,230	11,551	10,893	9,936
Dorset	5,436	4,843	5,556	6,058	6,659	6,425	5,430
Durham	5,367	4,222	4,352	4,342	4,826	3,850	3,756
Dyfed-Powys	3,039	3,700	4,172	3,869	4,102	3,076	2,998
Essex	9,551	12,033	11,792	10,626	10,870	12,284	12,246
Gloucestershire	4,893	4,015	4,190	5,245	6,256	5,572	5,083
Greater Manchester	17,892	20,776	23,498	24,960	29,471	26,430	23,605
Gwent	8,047	6,310	5,805	4,402	5,062	4,185	3,583
Hampshire	14,832	23,541	23,804	25,259	25,841	23,635	20,460
Hertfordshire	4,356	7,474	8,351	8,500	9,826	7,852	7,140
Humberside	7,201	12,613	11,215	9,285	10,999	10,269	9,334
Kent	10,310	10,613	9,987	12,011	13,194	12,470	12,141
Lancashire	7,285	11,725	15,918	13,815	12,838	11,784	11,097
Leicestershire	9,822	10,487	11,973	11,610	11,270	10,162	10,682
Lincolnshire	4,349	4,439	5,052	5,431	5,691	5,444	5,058
London, City of	630	563	693	679	694	583	510
Merseyside	9,975	9,663	15,605	17,769	12,896	10,930	10,801
Metropolitan Police	134,395	141,036	129,965	111,242	102,656	99,428	102,949
Norfolk	6,298	6,021	7,082	6,633	6,353	5,349	4,901
Northamptonshire	4,681	4,060	4,590	3,798	4,361	5,194	4,618
Northumbria	17,261	9,628	8,791	9,222	10,891	8,512	8,659
North Wales	5,095	4,481	5,073	5,825	8,793	6,904	6,840
North Yorkshire	6,096	6,365	5,499	5,121	4,575	5,024	3,812
Nottinghamshire	5,300	6,555	7,002	6,778	8,889	8,851	7,796
South Wales	9,769	10,072	9,539	9,213	9,446	11,671	11,074
South Yorkshire	7,264	7,894	14,033	12,963	11,225	9,754	7,985
Staffordshire	10,385	10,325	10,291	11,630	12,504	10,069	10,046
Suffolk	4,272	4,933	5,272	4,915	5,559	5,511	5,422
Surrey	3,879	4,668	5,378	5,325	8,206	8,957	8,262
Sussex	12,026	7,492	12,654	14,496	16,484	15,220	11,911
Thames Valley	14,555	15,889	18,662	20,368	26,657	28,101	26,269
Warwickshire	3,455	2,755	2,738	2,633	3,577	3,780	2,931
West Mercia	9,706	10,788	7,696	6,098	6,845	7,161	7,077
West Midlands	19,351	20,095	20,264	20,521	21,211	20,119	18,647
West Yorkshire	12,484	18,432	18,612	21,064	20,275	18,803	16,370
Wiltshire	3,060	2,430	2,174	2,871	3,510	3,664	4,134
England and Wales	472,954	509,406	532,829	515,978	539,573	508,781	482,477

Table 3: Recorded summary offences of assault without injury, 2002-03 to 2008-09[1,2]

Police force	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Avon and Somerset	6,258	6,458	8,269	7,812	8,536	7,169	7,407
Bedfordshire	2,021	1,781	1,845	1,787	1,866	1,321	1,512
British Transport Police	3,668	3,934	4,315	4,316	4,631	3,996	3,936
Cambridgeshire	4,847	3,607	3,590	2,252	2,828	3,224	2,907
Cheshire	4,776	7,374	7,147	3,381	4,195	4,463	4,058
Cleveland	2,440	3,969	2,558	3,282	3,416	3,784	3,283
Cumbria	1,448	1,528	1,900	1,946	1,830	2,114	1,646
Derbyshire	2,515	1,962	1,403	1,398	1,721	2,043	2,753
Devon and Cornwall	6,130	7,213	7,880	5,788	5,586	5,325	5,291
Dorset	3,977	3,050	2,491	2,566	2,892	3,193	2,864
Durham	3,560	2,490	2,471	1,750	1,733	1,304	1,533
Dyfed-Powys	942	1,557	1,896	1,439	1,660	1,337	1,189
Essex	4,057	4,628	3,765	3,393	3,779	5,281	5,720
Gloucestershire	3,333	2,512	2,197	2,236	2,927	2,804	2,933
Greater Manchester	7,952	8,261	7,237	7,075	9,071	9,352	9,668

Table 3: Recorded summary offences of assault without injury, 2002-03 to 2008-09[1,2]

Police force	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Gwent	2,308	1,774	1,395	892	837	780	508
Hampshire	9,768	13,016	10,883	11,589	11,759	11,334	10,891
Hertfordshire	2,538	4,477	4,140	3,972	4,204	3,995	3,640
Humberside	3,436	4,161	4,909	3,989	4,580	3,577	3,643
Kent	6,998	6,984	5,928	6,849	7,805	7,738	7,251
Lancashire	3,748	6,512	7,794	6,467	6,110	6,241	6,348
Leicestershire	6,092	5,745	5,104	4,475	4,670	4,272	4,308
Lincolnshire	2,387	2,308	2,104	1,913	2,631	2,362	2,364
London, City of	259	201	199	199	191	222	192
Merseyside	6,115	4,186	5,814	5,567	4,948	4,179	3,671
Metropolitan Police	88,636	90,884	69,855	52,096	47,727	43,976	43,975
Norfolk	3,976	3,546	3,908	3,582	3,242	3,024	2,734
Northamptonshire	2,842	2,049	2,448	1,892	2,301	2,981	2,956
Northumbria	10,800	3,319	2,882	2,548	3,137	2,754	3,238
North Wales	3,186	2,495	2,461	2,592	4,102	3,145	2,790
North Yorkshire	3,989	3,832	2,117	2,185	1,942	1,878	1,906
Nottinghamshire	2,209	2,941	3,063	2,181	3,795	3,963	3,025
South Wales	3,223	3,183	2,841	2,992	3,069	4,016	4,239
South Yorkshire	4,511	5,073	9,466	4,872	3,763	3,083	2,452
Staffordshire	5,853	5,396	4,829	5,402	5,543	4,847	5,245
Suffolk	2,234	2,324	2,285	2,275	2,277	2,091	2,021
Surrey	2,077	2,586	2,627	2,249	3,112	3,612	3,842
Sussex	9,085	3,703	5,962	6,491	8,406	7,941	7,211
Thames Valley	8,728	8,516	7,529	7,128	11,354	12,022	11,496
Warwickshire	2,626	1,869	1,598	1,098	1,735	2,140	1,473
West Mercia	4,899	5,146	3,219	2,133	2,592	3,298	3,245
West Midlands	5,952	3,992	3,486	3,452	4,391	4,753	5,393
West Yorkshire	7,908	5,980	5,671	7,465	10,651	10,695	9,358
Wiltshire	1,792	1,057	701	751	1,256	1,851	2,503
England and Wales	276,099	267,579	244,182	209,717	228,801	223,480	218,618

[1] The numbers given in this table are also included in Table 2.
[2] Offence Classifications 104, 105A and 105B were used to produce the table.

Table 4: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for violence against the person (more serious offences)[1]*, by police force area—England and Wales 2002 to 2008*[2, 3, 4]

Police force	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	77	87	86	88	87	75	68
Bedfordshire	39	32	42	33	31	47	42
Cambridgeshire	42	31	46	29	41	43	38
Cheshire	50	53	54	84	58	70	44
City of London	5	1	2	—	1	—	3
Cleveland	46	54	52	61	53	52	46
Cumbria	23	26	30	35	19	24	23
Derbyshire	40	37	58	55	32	37	32
Devon and Cornwall	67	58	69	92	63	64	59
Dorset	22	20	26	33	34	29	21
Durham	44	44	53	42	38	37	27
Essex	57	73	55	65	53	71	71
Gloucestershire	19	24	24	20	17	23	18
Greater Manchester	257	222	226	238	223	245	229
Hampshire	109	99	130	121	104	101	80
Hertfordshire	53	40	43	61	33	34	39
Humberside	47	74	77	69	71	86	67
Kent	60	67	74	79	72	78	100
Lancashire	109	116	130	123	91	122	124
Leicestershire	59	66	78	64	36	60	66
Lincolnshire	18	28	32	15	33	30	47
Merseyside	103	115	107	120	126	108	82
Metropolitan Police	515	529	612	589	578	604	652
Norfolk	35	31	30	39	40	29	40
North Yorkshire	29	26	32	50	32	54	34
Northamptonshire	43	26	39	35	40	49	37

Table 4: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for violence against the person (more serious offences)[1], by police force area—England and Wales 2002 to 2008[2, 3, 4]

Police force	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Northumbria	113	121	109	117	115	136	129
Nottinghamshire	52	58	56	76	71	63	71
South Yorkshire	96	68	117	92	93	86	89
Staffordshire	55	46	65	56	64	46	58
Suffolk	39	29	34	30	26	13	35
Surrey	17	25	31	20	24	35	21
Sussex	72	65	73	67	70	70	93
Thames Valley	83	93	88	107	110	111	112
Warwickshire	23	18	21	29	23	29	24
West Mercia	49	58	53	59	49	63	43
West Midlands	230	222	247	228	238	221	206
West Yorkshire	131	163	192	180	131	171	214
Wiltshire	25	19	30	28	21	20	33
Dyfed-Powys	21	30	28	27	21	31	30
Gwent	64	45	59	52	28	36	28
North Wales	30	27	32	54	36	40	43
South Wales	133	129	112	127	116	110	106
England and Wales	3,201	3,195	3,554	3,589	3,242	3,453	3,424

[1] Includes: Murder, Attempted murder, Threat or conspiracy to murder, Manslaughter, Infanticide, Child destruction, Causing death by dangerous driving, Manslaughter due to diminished responsibility, Causing death by careless driving under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person, Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving, Causing death by driving,—unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers, Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking, Wounding or other act endangering life, Endangering railway passenger.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table 5: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for violence against the person (less serious offences)[1], by police force area—England and Wales 2002 to 2008[2, 3, 4]

Police force	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Avon and Somerset	737	848	747	829	830	856	888
Bedfordshire	227	265	284	336	335	315	354
Cambridgeshire	360	344	362	484	417	430	471
Cheshire	631	562	487	704	825	849	713
City of London	60	54	43	43	33	23	37
Cleveland	400	416	464	508	667	641	649
Cumbria	437	443	428	508	473	434	461
Derbyshire	585	638	643	847	639	730	620
Devon and Cornwall	766	908	807	820	751	699	732
Dorset	289	295	307	415	372	349	313
Durham	567	522	498	616	660	675	612
Essex	561	629	772	767	755	842	799
Gloucestershire	299	314	287	347	329	241	341
Greater Manchester	2,345	2,522	2,751	2,608	2,838	2,821	2,520
Hampshire	1,124	1,167	1,202	1,192	1,240	1,214	1,286
Hertfordshire	486	467	517	622	546	485	443
Humberside	608	703	719	732	783	867	792
Kent	617	659	542	644	695	702	812
Lancashire	1,175	1,176	1,171	1,228	1,507	1,594	1,497
Leicestershire	739	715	724	825	730	714	641
Lincolnshire	292	335	388	351	369	380	378
Merseyside	1,211	1,237	1,331	1,301	1,409	1,396	1,313
Metropolitan Police	5,879	5,342	5,468	5,471	5,590	5,406	6,132
Norfolk	361	372	336	384	430	386	380
North Yorkshire	336	365	426	463	467	545	510
Northamptonshire	262	269	295	334	285	267	386
Northumbria	1,361	1,270	1,201	1,263	1,227	1,391	1,317

Table 5: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for violence against the person (less serious offences)[1], by police force area—England and Wales 2002 to 2008[2, 3, 4]

Police force	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Nottinghamshire	687	688	694	761	784	791	712
South Yorkshire	927	951	946	1,060	1,090	1,131	1,224
Staffordshire	601	642	667	681	727	714	704
Suffolk	329	367	410	455	545	469	379
Surrey	206	229	263	253	302	311	316
Sussex	629	674	603	713	778	847	802
Thames Valley	682	698	713	938	1,038	998	977
Warwickshire	195	190	232	260	303	273	276
West Mercia	650	654	642	779	860	846	779
West Midlands	2,860	2,764	2,731	2,299	2,610	2,389	2,342
West Yorkshire	1,216	1,290	1,607	1,557	1,331	1,477	1,542
Wiltshire	271	335	296	371	439	376	392
Dyfed-Powys	332	386	320	335	329	335	228
Gwent	553	482	512	433	538	530	403
North Wales	406	440	477	550	641	612	574
South Wales	1,248	1,214	1,282	1,253	1,105	1,147	1,048
England and Wales	34,507	34,841	35,595	37,340	38,622	38,498	38,095

[1] Includes: Endangering life at sea, Other wounding etc., Cruelty to or neglect of children, Abandoning child aged under two years, Child abduction, procuring illegal abortion, Concealment of birth.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table 6: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for common assault, by police force area—England and Wales 2002 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

Police force	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Avon and Somerset	754	789	934	1,279	1,246	1,413	1,484
Bedfordshire	246	307	364	452	528	442	491
Cambridgeshire	334	347	396	563	699	736	762
Cheshire	508	544	575	831	1,182	1,396	1,244
City of London	28	18	21	23	44	47	60
Cleveland	234	350	426	444	515	634	657
Cumbria	359	407	474	573	593	687	775
Derbyshire	561	684	883	1,130	1,158	1,328	1,463
Devon and Cornwall	1,044	1,041	1,204	1,333	1,171	1,168	1,365
Dorset	363	340	406	518	605	756	670
Durham	341	318	337	434	457	665	551
Essex	840	894	1,068	1,419	1,624	1,724	1,656
Gloucestershire	287	307	349	498	520	462	614
Greater Manchester	998	1,183	1,825	2,135	2,637	2,830	2,653
Hampshire	1,322	1,480	1,982	1,863	1,966	2,248	2,216
Hertfordshire	376	461	621	856	901	861	860
Humberside	444	587	755	842	888	1,029	1,017
Kent	810	930	1,075	1,153	1,351	1,454	1,421
Lancashire	844	993	1,034	1,512	1,957	2,131	2,145
Leicestershire	527	630	734	1,098	1,156	1,407	1,275
Lincolnshire	480	570	567	585	619	570	571
Merseyside	671	946	1,153	1,287	1,464	1,520	1,456
Metropolitan Police	2,829	2,941	3,416	4,063	5,096	5,304	5,888
Norfolk	612	617	678	662	728	792	881
North Yorkshire	420	438	582	765	800	753	726
Northamptonshire	283	331	361	419	423	427	426
Northumbria	776	947	1,106	1,128	1,226	1,586	1,468
Nottinghamshire	910	906	917	1,098	1,143	1,043	1,033
South Yorkshire	580	724	929	1,049	1,184	1,343	1,286
Staffordshire	780	802	938	1,080	1,107	1,116	943
Suffolk	467	536	704	770	836	822	807

Table 6: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for common assault, by police force area—England and Wales 2002 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

Police force	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Surrey	293	415	492	601	559	603	591
Sussex	768	809	1,075	1,099	1,124	1,382	1,439
Thames Valley	796	841	984	1,524	1,696	1,664	1,639
Warwickshire	192	176	194	273	303	426	351
West Mercia	676	733	948	1,131	1,208	1,225	1,102
West Midlands	2,467	2,529	2,793	2,848	2,937	2,978	2,742
West Yorkshire	1,577	2,010	2,445	2,579	2,362	2,428	2,345
Wiltshire	519	623	616	620	615	531	547
Dyfed-Powys	258	317	350	358	459	443	393
Gwent	374	343	371	387	512	543	571
North Wales	476	501	566	643	736	791	842
South Wales	525	617	682	820	925	985	893
England and Wales	28,949	32,282	38,330	44,745	49,260	52,693	52,319

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Departmental ICT

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monetary value was of payments made by his Department to external IT contractors in each of the last five years. [320882]

Mr. Woolas: The total monetary value of payments made by the Home Department to external IT contractors for each of the financial years 2005-06 to 2008-09 was as follows:

Payments made to IT suppliers: Home Department including UKBA

Financial year	£ million
2005-06	150
2006-07	223
2007-08	336
2008-09	265

Note:
Following their incorporation into the Ministry of Justice in May 2007, the National Offenders Management Service (NOMS) and Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) continued to share the Home Office accounting system until October 2008. Figures to October 2008 include payments by NOMS and OCJR as they could be excluded only at disproportionate cost.

The payment figures to October 2008 include expenditure by the National Offenders Management Service and the Office of Criminal Justice Reform, both of which are now incorporated into the Ministry of Justice.

Because of in-year changes to the Department's accounting systems, payment information for the financial year 2004-05 could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

The 2008-09 figure represents just under 20 per cent. of spend on goods and services by the Home Office and UKBA and reflects the significant technology enabling initiatives undertaken to protect our borders and counter terrorism.

The Department awards contracts in competition according to the EU procurement directives based on value for money.

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the pilot project for women with no recourse to public funds will be extended beyond August 2010; and whether he plans to make that initiative permanent. [325865]

Mr. Woolas: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which substances commonly considered to be legal highs are under review by his Department; [325702]

(2) when officials in his Department were first made aware of the risks arising from the use of mephedrone as a drug; [325703]

(3) if he will consider bringing forward proposals to include *(a)* methylone and *(b)* butylone within the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. [325704]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Pursuant to the previous Home Secretary's commission of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) to provide advice on so called "legal highs" in March 2009 and following its advice on synthetic cannabinoids, and cathinone derivatives, the ACMD are now considering its next priority area from a range that includes but is not limited to plants such as Kava kava and Salvia divinorum, solvents and gases, miscellaneous stimulants and hallucinogens, and fungi.

Home Office officials first became aware of the use of mephedrone as a drug following unconfirmed presentations to Accident and Emergency units during the Isle of Wight music festival in late July 2009.

The draft order to control mephedrone and other cathinone derivatives currently before Parliament will enshrine in law a generic definition encompassing a wide range of cathinone derivatives, including methylone and butylone.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many judicial reviews of decisions made by the competent authority in relation to human trafficking cases were *(a)* initiated and *(b)* completed between 1 April 2009 and 28 February 2010. [325892]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Identity Cards: Cheshire

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for identity cards his Department has received from residents of postcode area *(a)* CW1 3, *(b)* CW1 4, *(c)* CW3 0, *(d)* CW3 9, *(e)* CW5 6, *(f)* CW5 8, *(g)* CW11 4, *(h)* ST7 2, *(i)* CW1 2, *(j)* CW2 6, *(k)* CW2 7, *(l)* CW5 7, *(m)* CW5 5, *(n)* CW2 8, *(o)* CW1 5, *(p)* CW2 5 and *(q)* CW1 6 since 1 January 2010. [325179]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* The Identity and Passport Service is not able to provide a breakdown of applications received to this level of postcode detail without contravening data protection principles.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what dates his Department monitored each UK fishing port to assess whether employees were working illegally in the last 12 months; and what the results of such monitoring were. [325893]

Mr. Woolas: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Immigrants: Detainees

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people held in immigration removal centres (IRCs) pending removal from the country were transferred to another IRC before being removed in the last 12 months. [325854]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested could be obtained by undertaking a detailed examination of individual records which would be only at disproportionate cost.

Detainees are not routinely moved between centres without an operational reason. This is normally to ensure occupancy levels of the bed space is maximised, to re-position detainees close to airports in preparation for their removal from the UK, to attend court hearings, medical appointments or for an interview.

Independent Safeguarding Authority: Manpower

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of caseworkers employed by the Independent Safeguarding Authority to make barring decisions under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 do not have *(a)* a university degree, *(b)* any A-levels and *(c)* more than four GCSEs at A* to C grade. [307862]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* The Independent Safeguarding Authority recruits caseworkers based on competency based assessment which links to the skills and experience they can bring to the post rather than academic qualifications. However, the breakdown of the percentages of Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) caseworker qualifications (Levels 3-6) is as follows:

(a) Staff with degrees = 28 per cent.

(b) Staff with A levels = 49 per cent.

(c) Staff with four GCE/GCSE's grade A* to C or above = 70 per cent.

Casework Officers, Decision Makers, Team Managers and Unit Heads undertake the UCAPD—Professional Decision Making in the ISA. This programme is accredited by Teesside University and awards individuals 60 credits/ units of an academic qualification.

Mephedrone

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what representations he has received on the banning of mephedrone in the UK; [320113]

(2) if he will introduce proposals to ban the sale of mephedrone in the UK. [320114]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Following receipt of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs advice on 29 March 2010, a draft order to amend the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to control mephedrone and other cathinone derivatives as class B drugs is currently before Parliament for its approval. With Parliament's agreement, these drugs will be controlled on 16 April 2010.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the classification of mephedrone under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; and if he will make a statement. [324848]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* The most recent representation received on the classification of mephedrone is the advice of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), the Government's independent expert body, on 29 March 2010. The ACMD's advice can be accessed at:

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs-laws/acmd/index.html

On the recommendation of the ACMD that mephedrone and other cathinone derivatives should be brought under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as Class B drugs, a draft Order to amend the 1971 Act is currently before Parliament for its approval. With Parliament's agreement, these drugs will be controlled on 16 April 2010.

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to bring forward proposals to amend the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to provide for *(a)* nurse independent prescribers and *(b)* pharmacist independent prescribers to prescribe most controlled drugs; and if he will make a statement. [32193

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government plan to amend the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 (as amended) when Parliament returns in order to expand the range of controlled drugs that can be prescribed independently by Nurse Independent Prescribers and to enable Pharmacist Independent Prescribers to independently prescribe controlled drugs.

Operation Greenfly

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* Operation Greenfly and *(b)* Operation Calais. [325585]

Mr. Alan Campbell: These operations, like other operational matters in the force area, are the responsibility of the chief constable of Essex police, with whom questions about their effectiveness should be taken up.

Police: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of the policing pledge in Greater Manchester. [325852]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 7 April 2010]:* It is for individual police forces and authorities to ensure delivery of the Policing Pledge in their area. The Government will hold forces to account for progress through the single top-down target we have set them to improve public confidence that the antisocial behaviour and crime issues that matter locally are being tackled, and in the light of inspection work by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). In September 2009, 50 per cent. of the public were confident that antisocial behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area were being dealt with—an increase of 4 per cent. points in the last year.

In October 2009, HMIC published a report on the progress of all forces in delivering the Pledge and the report graded Greater Manchester police as 'fair'. Police authorities are now working with forces to ensure that the learning identified by HMIC is taken onboard and that the Policing Pledge is delivered consistently across their force area.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the Assistant Director of the UK Border Agency did not reply to the hon. Member for Thurrock's letter of 23 September 2009 (re CTS Ref B34288/9 and Z1048050) until 26 March 2010; why her letter was not despatched until 29 March 2010; and if he will make a statement. [325844]

Mr. Woolas: The delay in responding to my hon. Friend's letter was due to an internal organisational re-structuring which impacted temporarily on work allocation and, as a result, certain items of work were not actioned within the appropriate time scales.

War Crimes

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 351-2W, on the UK Border Agency's War Crimes Unit, what the country of origin is of those recommended for refusal/exclusion. [325859]

Mr. Woolas: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 351-52W, on the UK Border Agency's War Crimes Unit, how many people whose cases the Border Agency referred to the Metropolitan Police are still in the UK. [325860]

Mr. Woolas: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 351-52W, on the UK Border Agency's War Crimes Unit, how many people the Border Agency recommended for refusal/exclusion are still in the UK. [325861]

Mr. Woolas: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to question 324858, tabled on 23 March 2010, on Group 4 Securicor (G4S). [325871]

Mr. Woolas: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 6 April 2010, *Official Report*, column 1268W.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons he has not provided a substantive response to Question *(a)* 325183 on human trafficking and *(b)* 325031 on the European Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. [325891]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answers of 7 April 2010, *Official Report*, column 1382W, and 6 April 2010, *Official Report*, column 1271W respectively.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Saville Inquiry has spent on IT consultants since its inception. [325508]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Bloody Sunday Inquiry that it has spent approximately £2.2 million on information technology consultants to the end of February 2010.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budget is of the press office for the Saville Inquiry in the *(a)* current and *(b)* next financial year. [325509]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Bloody Sunday Inquiry that the Inquiry does not currently employ a press officer and there is no dedicated budget for press office facilities. Since November 2004, all press inquiries have been handled by the Secretary and Deputy Secretary to the Inquiry. An average total on-call allowance of £400 per month is paid to cover out-of-hours press inquiries.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what advertising campaigns were *(a)* launched and *(b)* maintained by his Department in 2008-09; and how much each such campaign cost in that year. [325537]

Paul Goggins: Expenditure and a list of the advertising campaigns *(a)* launched and *(b)* maintained by the Northern Ireland Office, including its arm's length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs, in 2008-09 is shown in the following table.

Campaign	*Maintained/ launched*	*Cost (£)*
PPSNI Recruitment	Launched	7,365
Fireworks Campaign	Maintained	49,315
Recruitment of member of the Boundary Commission	Launched	12,929
Public appointments competition for recruitment of Civil Service Commissioners for Northern Ireland	Launched	14,678
Unknown Callers—Community Safety television advertisement	Maintained	102,030
Theft from Vehicles—television advertisement	Maintained	78,682
Close it, Lock it, Check it Campaign	Launched	169,425
Publicising section 75 Equality Legislation	Launched	2,858

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department and its agencies have spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324425]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and its Agencies have spent the following amounts on rooms for staff leisure, including fitness facilities and equipment, in each of the last five years:

The NIO in 2009-10 spent £1,582.26, and in 2008-9 spent £7,614.24. There was no expenditure in the previous three years.

The NI Prison Service in 2008-9 spent £2,015.13, and in 2007-8 £9,621.83. There was no expenditure in the other years.

Expenditure on fitness facilities and equipment, including shower facilities, is seen as contributing to the promotion of good health amongst staff.

Departmental Dismissal

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of staff in his Department were dismissed in each of the last five years; and how many were dismissed as a result of under-performance in each year. [325493]

Paul Goggins: The details requested are shown in the following table.

	Total dismissed	*Dismissed as a result of under performance*
2005	*1	0
2006	5 (*2)	0
2007	8	0
2008	4	0
2009	2	0

* Reason for dismissal not recorded.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland from how many documents released by his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in the last five years information has been withheld under the exemptions relating to *(a)* parliamentary privilege, *(b)* disclosure of personal data, *(c)* disclosure of commercial data, *(d)* duty of confidence and the public interest, *(e)* operation of a ministerial private office, *(f)* advice from the Law Officers, *(g)* ministerial correspondence, *(h)* formulation or development of Government policy, *(i)* information supplied by or relating to security bodies, *(j)* international relations and *(k)* relations between bodies within the UK. [325435]

Paul Goggins: In order to provide the information requested it would be necessary to review all documents that have been released by the Department since 2005. As this would incur disproportionate costs I regret that I am unable to provide the information.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which of his Department's ICT projects were over budget at the latest date for which information is available; and by how much each was over budget at that time. [325536]

Paul Goggins: The Causeway Programme is a key element in the continuing modernisation and reform of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland. At its inception, total costs were estimated at £42.7 million. The most recent estimate is that total costs through to the end of the contract in 2013 will be £61.6 million. The increased costs have arisen in three main areas:

Adaptation of criminal justice line of business systems to link in with Causeway - £7 million

PPP contract changes - £8 million

Programme development and office costs - £4 million

The rate of return on the investment is, however, expected to be broadly similar to the original estimate.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [325406]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has not undertaken any equality impact assessments in the 12 months ending 28 February 2010.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* legal fees and *(b)* compensation in relation to legal cases concerning remuneration of its employees in each of the last five years. [325300]

Mr. Woodward: Due to Prorogation it has not been possible to answer this question.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* nationals of other EU member states and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals his Department employs. [325433]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has no central record of nationals of other EU member states and non-EU foreign nationals in our employment. Since November 2007, the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS), which also carries out recruitment on behalf of the NIO, has collected the nationality details of applicants for vacancies. This information is retained for those who are successful and are appointed to posts in the NICS and NIO.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years; and what such items were. [324708]

Paul Goggins: The following table details expenditure by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arm's length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs on promotional items carrying the Department's branding and logo in the last five years.

	Item	*Total (£)*
2004-05	—	Nil
2005-06	—	Nil
2006-07	Leadership programme folders	2,389.63
2007-08	Leaflets and posters advertising e-learning programme	6,361.45
2008-09	Leadership programme folders	2,239.63
	Consultant business cards	129.13
	Sentencing framework leaflets and posters	819.50

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much of his Department's marketing budget was spent on *(a)* media advertising, *(b)* promotion and *(c)* education packs and initiatives for schools in 2008-09. [325538]

Paul Goggins: Expenditure on *(a)* media advertising *(b)* promotion and *(c)* education packs and initiatives for schools by the Northern Ireland Office, including its arm's length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, in 2008-09 is shown in the following table.

	£
Media Advertising	422,785
Promotion	5,562
Education Packs and Initiatives for Schools	109,903

Departmental Meetings

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many official meetings he has had in *(a)* London, *(b)* Belfast, *(c)* Londonderry, *(d)* Newry, *(e)* Armagh and *(f)* the United States of America in the last 12 months. [325427]

Mr. Woodward: To identify each and every separate official meeting the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has had in the last 12 months on official business in London, Northern Ireland and the United States can be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Opinion Polls

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research in each of the last five years; what surveys were commissioned; and what the purpose was of each such survey. [325491]

Paul Goggins: The requested information is as follows:

2005-06

Opinion polling—£340,317

Focus groups—£27,480

Other market research—£0

Surveys commissioned and the purpose of each:

Northern Ireland Information Service Poll—to gauge public view on the political process;

Commissioned questions for NI Omnibus survey—to obtain public perception of Public Prosecution Service which in turn assists in the development of policy;

NI Crime Survey—to ascertain people's experience and perceptions of crime in N.I;

NI Omnibus Survey—Recovery of Assets Module—to ascertain people's awareness of Assets Recovery Agency and perceptions of its effectiveness;

NI Omnibus Survey—Confidence in the Criminal Justice System Module—to assess people's confidence of the Criminal Justice System;

NI Omnibus Survey—Confidence in Police Module—to assess people's confidence of the police; and

NI Omnibus Survey—Sexual Violence Module—perceptions and assessment of sexual violence in NI.

2006-07

Opinion polling—£399,328

Focus groups—£0

Other market research—£0

Surveys commissioned and the purpose of each:

Northern Ireland Information Service Poll—to gauge public view on the political process;

Commissioned questions for NI Omnibus survey—to obtain public perception of Public Prosecution Service which in turn assists in the development of policy;

NI Crime Survey—to ascertain people's experience and perceptions of crime in NI;

NI Omnibus Survey—Organised Crime Module—to ascertain people's experience and perceptions of Organised Crime;

NI Omnibus Survey—Recovery of Assets Module—to ascertain people's awareness of Assets Recovery Agency and perceptions of its effectiveness;

Compensation Agency Applicants' Attitudes Survey; and

Public Attitudes towards Sex Offenders.

2007-08

Opinion polling—£397,145

Focus groups—£1,828

Other market research—£7,370

Surveys commissioned and the purpose of each:

Northern Ireland Information Service Poll—to gauge public view on the political process;

Commissioned questions for NI Omnibus survey—to obtain public perception of Public Prosecution Service which in turn assists in the development of policy;

NI Crime Survey—to ascertain people's experience and perceptions of crime in NI;

NI Omnibus Survey—Organised Crime Module—to ascertain people's experience and perceptions of Organised Crime;

NI Omnibus Survey—Recovery of Assets Module—to ascertain people's awareness of Assets Recovery Agency and perceptions of its effectiveness;

NI Omnibus Survey—Youth Justice Agency module—to ascertain people's awareness of the Youth Justice Agency and perceptions of its effectiveness; and

Evaluation of OCTF Christmas Counterfeit goods campaign.

2008-09

Opinion polling—£46,069

Focus groups—£0

Other market research—£9,897

Surveys Commissioned and the purpose of each:

Northern Ireland Information Service Poll—to gauge public view on the political process;

Commissioned questions for NI Omnibus survey—to obtain public perception of Public Prosecution Service which in turn assists in the development of policy;

Customer Satisfaction Survey—to analyse the performance of the compensation Agency;

Access NI—Customer Attitudes Survey; and

Evaluation of OCTF Christmas Counterfeit goods campaign.

2009-10

Opinion polling—£37,145

Focus groups—£0

Other market research—£6,539

Surveys commissioned and the purpose of each:

Access NI—Customer Attitudes Survey;

Evaluation of OCTF Christmas Counterfeit goods campaign;

To gauge public opinion on the political process (May 2009); and

To gauge public opinion on the political process (March 2010).

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what direction his Department gives to its contractors on the framing of questions in surveys it commissions. [325436]

Paul Goggins: Polling questions are agreed in consultation between the Department and the contractor.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in respect of how many surveys commissioned by his Department in 2010 the *(a)* results and *(b)* supporting data have been published in full. [325437]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has not commissioned any surveys in 2010 where the *(a)* results and *(b)* supporting data have been published in full.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what opinion surveys were commissioned by his Department in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010 to date; and what company was commissioned to undertake each. [325447]

Mr. Woodward: The requested information is as follows:

Survey	*Commissioned Company*
2008-09	
Northern Ireland Information Service Poll - to gauge public view on the political process;	Millward and Brown Ulster
Commissioned questions for NI Omnibus survey - to obtain public perception of Public Prosecution Service which in turn assists in the development of policy;	Millward and Brown Ulster
Customer Satisfaction Survey - to analyse the performance of the Compensation Agency;	Millward and Brown Ulster
Access NI - Customer Attitudes Survey; and	NI Statistics and Research Agency
Evaluation of OCTF Christmas counterfeit goods campaign.	Genesis Advertising
2009-10	
Access NI - Customer Attitudes Survey;	NI Statistics and Research Agency
Evaluation of OCTF Christmas counterfeit goods campaign;	Genesis Advertising
To gauge public opinion on the political process (May 2009); and	Millward and Brown Ulster

Survey	Commissioned Company
To gauge public opinion on the political process (March 2010).	Millward and Brown Ulster

Departmental Pay

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of senior civil servants in his Department were awarded a bonus in 2009; and what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* lowest, *(c)* mean, *(d)* median and *(e)* mode bonus awarded was. [325497]

Paul Goggins: Non-consolidated performance payments are made to staff in the senior civil service in line with Cabinet Office Guidance. In 2009 performance payments were made to 37 senior civil servants which is 58.7 per cent. of the senior civil servants in the Department. The highest payment *(a)* was £11,000, the lowest *(b)* was £1,800, the mean payment *(c)* was £7,762, the median payment *(d)* was £7,570 and the mode payment *(e)* was £6,450.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of his Department's Board members who were civil servants working in his Department were awarded a bonus in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and what the highest bonus paid was in each year. [325498]

Paul Goggins: In 2008 there were 12 board members of which 11 received a bonus, which constitutes 91.7 per cent. of the Board. The highest bonus paid was £18,000.

In 2009 there were nine board members of which six received a bonus, which constitutes 66.7 per cent. of the Board. The highest bonus paid was £11,000.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to which *(a)* magazines and *(b)* journals his Department has subscribed in each of the last five years; and what the cost was of those subscriptions. [325473]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is as follows.

Community Safety Unit

Pavilion Community Safety Journal (2010 cost £619.00)

Older People Journal (2010 cost £125.00)

	Total (£)
2005-06	619.00
2006-07	619.00
2007-08	619.00
2008-09	744.00
2009-10	744.00

Personnel Services Division

Central Government Supplies Estimates 2007-08 (2008-09 cost £61.92)

Employers Pay Benefits Manual Issues 26-29 (2008-09 cost £359.00)

Employment Law Issues 74-79 (2008-09 cost £827.00)

Industrial Relations Law Reports Journal 2008-10 (2008-09 cost £2,566.00)

Payroll Factfile Issues 85-90 (2008-09 cost £474.00)

Termination Employment Issues 26-29 (2008-09 cost £430.25)

	Total (£)
2008-09	3,891.17

Information and Corporate Services Division Millbank

Economist (2009-10 cost £960.00)

New Statesman (2009-10 cost £672.00)

Spectator (2009-10 cost £614.40)

Private Eye (2009-10 cost £36.00)

Tribune (2009-10 cost £288.00)

	Total (£)
2005-06	No figures available
2006-07	2,392.80
2007-08	2,392.80
2008-09	2,392.80
2009-10	2,570.40

Criminal Justice Library

British Journal of Criminology (2009 cost £357.85)

British Journal of Social Work (2009 cost £472.63)

Bulletin of NI Law (2009 cost £210.00)

Child Care in Practice (2009 cost 179.07)

Community Safety (2009 cost £195.00)

Criminal Justice (2009 cost £380.14)

Criminal Justice Matters (2009 cost £112.87)

Criminal Law Review (2009 cost £320.00)

Drugscope (2008 cost £55.00)

Economist (2008-09 cost £103.00)

European Human Rights Law Review (2009 cost £388.00)

Fortnight (2009 cost £28.00)

House of Commons Weekly Information Bulletin (2009 cost £48.15)

Howard Journal of Criminal Justice (2009 cost £70.00)

Human Rights Alerter (2009 cost £197.00)

Human Rights Updater (2009 cost £179.00)

International Review of Victimology (2009 cost £179.00)

Journal of Adolescence (2009 cost £48.00)

Justice of the Peace Journal and Justice of the Peace reports (2009 cost £499.00)

Magistrate (2009 cost £30.00)

Modern Law Review (2009 cost £230.35)

New Law Journal (2009-10 cost £285.00)

Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly (2008 cost £85.00)

Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly (2009-10 cost £100.00)

Police Journal (2009 cost £131.00)

	Total (£)
2008-09	4,883.06

Crown Solicitor's Office

Coredry on Solicitors (2009-10 cost £1,304.00)

Costs (2009-10 cost £590.00)

Criminal Appeal Reports (2009-10 cost £1,071.00)

Current Law (2009-10 cost £1,454.00)

Discrimination In Employment (2009-10 cost £216.00)

European Human Rights Reports (2009-10 cost £748.00)
European Human Rights Law Review (2009-10 cost £601.00)
Human Rights Practice (2009-10 cost £214.00)
IDS Employment Law Brief (2009-10 cost £681.00)
Industrial Cases Reports (2009-10 cost £440.00)
Judicial Review (2009-10 cost £195.00)
Kemp and Kemp on Personal Injury (2009-10 cost £234.00)
Mitchell on Confiscation (2009-10 cost £204.00)
New Law Journal (2009-10 cost £285.00)
Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly (2009-10 cost £100.00)
Northern Ireland Law Bulletin (2009-10 cost £120.00)

	Total (£)
2005-06	5,057.50
2006-07	5,984.01
2007-08	6,050.23
2008-09	7,096.00
2009-10	8,457.00

Policing Policy and Strategy Branch

Jane's Police Review (2010 cost £103.48)

	Total £
2005-06	103.48
2006-07	103.48
2007-08	103.48
2008-09	103.48
2009-10	103.48

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which companies were contracted by his Department for the provision of temporary staff in each of the last five years; how many temporary staff were employed by his Department in each such year; and what the monetary value was of contracts with each such company in each such year. [325495]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) did not contract any companies for the provision of temporary workers. Temporary workers employed by the NIO are drawn from contracts set up by the Department of Finance and Personnel (NI).

Prior to 1 February 2010, the recruitment of temporary staff was delegated to business areas in NIO and no information on numbers is available.

Since 1 February 2010, the recruitment of temporary workers for the Department is managed centrally. There are currently 26 such staff in post.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322653]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) takes a range of measures across its Estate which reflect the standards set out in HMG Security Policy Framework (SPF) issued by the Cabinet Office and available online at:

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/spf.aspx

These measures to deter theft from within the Department include: controlling access to the Department's buildings; informing staff both at induction and on an ongoing basis of their responsibility to comply with the policies and procedures laid down for safe guarding departmental assets, including property and information; maintaining property asset registers; and having appropriate financial procedures in place to mitigate against the theft of money. It would not be appropriate to provide details of specific controls as this could undermine their effectiveness.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department's agencies spent on staff travel *(a)* within the UK and *(b)* abroad in each year since 1997. [325448]

Paul Goggins: As each of the Northern Ireland Office's agencies maintain their own finance system, there are differences in the information that can be provided.

Northern Ireland Prison Service

	Within UK	Outside UK	£ Total
1997-98	n/a	n/a	948,584
1998-99	n/a	n/a	1,780,058
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	1,578,014
2000-01	n/a	n/a	1,453,299
2001-02	n/a	n/a	2,002,319
2002-03	n/a	n/a	1,383,910
2003-04	1,382,452	735	1,383,187
2004-05	1,791,044	645	1,791,689
2005-06	1,860,508	4,330	1,864,838
2006-07	1,634,440	3,805	1,638,245
2007-08	1,415,943	2,051	1,417,994
2008-09	1,444,519	1,166	1,445,685

n/a = Not available

The Northern Ireland Prison Service is able to provide a breakdown of UK and international travel expenditure from 2003-04. To split the expenditure in the same way prior to this would involve a manual investigation of all claims which would incur disproportionate costs.

Compensation Agency

	Within UK	Outside UK	£ Total
1997-98	n/a	n/a	12,474
1998-99	n/a	n/a	14,066
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	12,807
2000-01	n/a	n/a	16,533
2001-02	n/a	n/a	10,211
2002-03	n/a	n/a	24,413
2003-04	n/a	n/a	21,151
2004-05	n/a	n/a	17,281
2005-06	n/a	n/a	17,174
2006-07	n/a	n/a	13,342
2007-08	n/a	n/a	6,618
2008-09	n/a	n/a	5,201

n/a = Not available

Compensation Agency expenditure on travel is grouped under the same heading as subsistence. The above figures therefore include both travel and subsistence. To provide separate costs and give details of whether the staff travel was within or outside the UK can be done only at disproportionate cost.

Youth Justice Agency

	Within UK	Outside UK	£ Total
1997-98	[1]	[1]	[1]
1998-99	[1]	[1]	[1]
1999-2000	[1]	[1]	[1]
2000-01	[1]	[1]	[1]
2001-02	[1]	[1]	[1]
2002-03	[1]	[1]	[1]
2003-04	184,499	0	184,499
2004-05	173,318	0	173,318
2005-06	192,926	0	192,926
2006-07	244,107	535	244,642
2007-08	225,663	0	225,663
2008-09	248,915	0	248,915

[1] Not applicable

The Youth Justice Agency was launched on 1 April 2003.

Forensic Science Agency of Northern Ireland (FSND

	Within UK	Outside UK	£ Total
1997-98	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998-99	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000-01	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001-02	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002-03	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003-04	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004-05	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005-06	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a	107,127
2007-08	n/a	n/a	111,182
2008-09	n/a	n/a	104,122

n/a = Not available

FSNI's current finance system has only been in operation since 2006-07 and groups expenditure on travel under the same heading as subsistence so the above figures include both travel and subsistence. Figures before 2006-07 could be provided only at disproportionate cost as this would involve a manual investigation of claim forms.

Festivals and Special Occasions

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas and *(b)* other religious celebrations in each of the last five years. [325471]

Mr. Woodward: Due to Prorogation it has not been possible to answer this question.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on security and policing at the 12 July celebrations in each of the last five years. [325540]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Hotels

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many nights he has stayed in hotels on official business in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* the Republic of Ireland, *(c)* Great Britain and *(d)* the United States of America in the last 12 months. [325429]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is shown in the following table.

	Number of nights stayed
Northern Ireland	None
Republic of Ireland	None
Great Britain	None

Note:
Details of overseas visits, including the United States, are published annually by the Cabinet Office.

Historical Enquiries Team

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budget is of the Historical Enquiries Team in the next two years. [325476]

Paul Goggins: The total budget for the Historical Enquiries Team project for 2010-11 is £7.2 million. The budget is split between HET PSNI, the Office of the Police Ombudsman NI, the Public Prosecution Service and Forensic Science NI. Future budgets will form part of the next spending review.

Irish Language

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 532W, on Irish language, what steps his Department takes to assist Irish language users in using Irish when dealing with his Department. [325691]

Paul Goggins: In line with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages the Northern Ireland Office has adopted a Code of Courtesy for the Irish language which is available to staff as guidance when dealing with Irish language users.

Mass Media

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on press monitoring in each of the last five years. [325492]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office has an in-house media monitoring service to meet the needs of Ministers and senior officials within the Department. It also provides its media monitoring services to Ministers and officials in the devolved Administration and a number of external public sector stakeholders.

	Equipment costs	Media monitoring unit	Typing pool
2004-05	14,052.15	70,000	69,000
2005-06	2,397.76	70,200	72,000

	Equipment costs	Media monitoring unit	Typing pool
2006-07	1,682.14	79,000	79,000
2007-08	6,080.04	69,000	79,000
2008-09	2,957.14	62,000	82,000

Equipment costs are all the costs associated with press monitoring—for example televisions, DVD recorders, DVD discs, tapes, radios and trans-scribers.

The Department recoups a percentage of its running costs by passing on a small charge to its clients.

Currently there are four members of staff employed in the Media Monitoring Unit and a further five typists to transcribe media monitoring requests. Staffing numbers have fluctuated over this period. I have provided the average salary costs for each team.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what reasons officers from the Police Service of Northern Ireland crossed the border into the Irish Republic in March 2010 and stopped cars there; and if he will make a statement. [325845]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what recent assistance he has given to the Northern Ireland Executive in relation to the Presbyterian Mutual Society; [325423]

(2) what support his Department is giving to those with money deposited with the Presbyterian Mutual Society. [325424]

Mr. Woodward: I have huge sympathy for investors in the Presbyterian Mutual Society whose investments are at risk following the entry of the Society into administration. The Prime Minister set up the Presbyterian Mutual Society Working Group in July 2009. That group, on which I sit alongside Treasury Ministers and Ministers from the Northern Ireland Executive, continues to try and find a solution to mitigate members' losses, and to consider all proposals which could responsibly help those affected by the failure of the PMS.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what meetings he has had with *(a)* HM Treasury, *(b)* the Northern Ireland Executive and *(c)* the Presbyterian Church in Ireland on the Presbyterian Mutual Society in the last 12 months; [325425]

(2) what meetings he has had relating to the Presbyterian Mutual Society in the last 12 months; [325431]

(3) how many meetings he has had with savers from the Presbyterian Mutual Society in the last 12 months; and how many such savers he has met. [325432]

Mr. Woodward: The Prime Minister and I have held a number of meetings in recent months with the First and Deputy First Minister to discuss the Presbyterian Mutual Society. Additionally, as well as the meetings of the PMS Working Group created by the Prime Minister, I have had a number of separate discussions with Treasury Ministers and with Ministers representing the Northern Ireland Executive to discuss the matter over the last 12 months. Colleagues on the Ministerial Working Group have met with groups of PMS investors, and I have met separately with a delegation from the Presbyterian Church, as have Treasury Ministers.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many letters and e-mails relating to the Presbyterian Mutual Society his Department has received in the last 12 months. [325430]

Mr. Woodward: Since 1 April 2009, my Department has received 235 items of correspondence relating to the Presbyterian Mutual Society.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has met the General Secretary of the Presbyterian Mutual Society in the last 12 months. [325446]

Mr. Woodward: No.

Trade Unions

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days staff of his Department spent on trade union activity in the latest year for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such activity in that year. [325499]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has one full-time member of staff seconded as a full-time trade union official for the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA). This official is provided with full-time administrative support. The cost of running this office in 2008-09, including staff costs, was £65,669.09.

Other members of staff throughout the Department are allowed facility time on an ad-hoc basis representing, NIPSA, First Division Association and the Public and Commercial Service Union. Facility time for trade union representatives is delegated to local Line Management. We do not hold central records of facility time for 2009. Central recording of facility time was introduced on 1 January 2010.

Village Halls

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to ensure the security and safety of community halls in Northern Ireland. [325494]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

International Planned Parenthood Federation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much funding his Department has allocated to the *(a)* International Planned Parenthood Federation and *(b)* United Nations Population Fund in each year since 1997; [325882]

(2) whether his Department places restrictions on the use of funds allocated by it to the *(a)* International Planned Parenthood Federation and *(b)* United Nations Population Fund; what guidance his Department has issued to each such organisation in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [325883]

Mr. Michael Foster: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

United Nations Population Fund

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the United Nations Population Fund in promoting non-coercive approaches to family planning in China since October 2009; and if he will make a statement; [325884]

(2) what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with the United States Administration on its decision to (i) reinstate the US contribution to the United Nations Population Fund and (ii) rescind the Mexico City policy; and if he will make a statement. [325885]

Mr. Michael Foster: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

WALES

Optics: Technology

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the Optic Research and Incubation Centre at St. Asaph Business Park in the last seven years. [325391]

Ian Lucas: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Innovation and Skills, has made no assessment of the effectiveness of the Optic Technium at St. Asaph, which we believe is owned by the Welsh Assembly Government and funded by European Objective 1.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Becta: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what Becta's budget was in the latest year for which figures are available. [321201]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Becta's resource funding for the current financial year (2010-11) is £65,751,000. This amount is for Becta's resource and revenue costs only and takes into account any expected efficiency savings. It does not cover capital costs such as capital spending on the national Home Access programme.

Child Minding

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he made of the number of childminders in *(a)* England and *(b)* each London borough in each quarter of each year from 2005 to 2009. [325564]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 6 April 2010]:* Ofsted have collected information on the number of registered child care providers and registered child care places available to children under eight years of age on a quarterly basis from March 2003.

All information, including numbers of childminders, by local authority, is published on Ofsted's website and can be found using the following links:

Information from 2008 onwards:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Childcare-and-early-years/Childcare-providers-and-places/Registered-childcare-providers-and-places-in-England-December-2008-onwards

Information between September 2006 and August 2008:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Childcare-and-early-years/Childcare-providers-and-places/Registered-childcare-providers-and-places-in-England-September-2006-to-August-2008

Information between March 2003 and June 2006:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Childcare-and-early-years/Childcare-providers-and-places/Registered-childcare-providers-and-places-in-England-March-2003-June-2006

Children in Care

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made on the pilots in two areas of the country on introducing pedagogy in working with children in care. [325693]

Dawn Primarolo: The social pedagogy pilots are progressing well. All the children's homes have been recruited, including those homes which will not recruit pedagogues and will therefore provide a comparison. The final recruitment round for social pedagogues has also just finished. The pilots are providing some good examples of creative work with children and young people and learning is emerging about the importance of a shared daily life within the home and the opportunities which that offers for relationship building through group activities. The evaluation contract has been awarded to the Universities of Bristol and York and will report in 2012.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what formula is used to decide the amount of funding provided to local authorities for children taken into care by social services; and if he will make a statement. [325840]

Dawn Primarolo: Children in care are funded by local authorities who are funded via the local government funding system. There is no formula that sets a national amount that should be spent on children's social care. The level of spending on children in care is decided by each local authority based on local circumstances and priorities.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on the number of childcare providers in *(a)* Chorley constituency and *(b)* Lancashire who take part in the childcare voucher scheme. [302383]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available, as employers and employees are not required to report the provision of tax exempt child care vouchers.

However, research commissioned by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in 2005, by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/research-report23.htm

estimates the proportion of employers that offer Employer Supported Childcare (ESC) split by Government office region (Table A.7, Appendix A, page 19).

These numbers should be treated with caution as the employee take-up rate and use of vouchers as opposed to other forms of ESC would likely vary from region to region and these figures do not account for employees working in one region and living in another. No estimates are made for Chorley constituency or Lancashire.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* maintained and *(b)* private, voluntary and independent nurseries have closed in each quarter of the last five years. [317742]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 13 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1062W.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of childminders to have entered the profession in each year since 1997. [317747]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not available specifically on the number of childminders who enter the profession. However, Ofsted have collected information on the number of registered child care providers and registered child care places available to children under eight years of age on a quarterly basis from March 2003.

All information, including numbers of childminders, by local authority, is published on Ofsted's website and can be found using the following links:

Information from 2008 onwards:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Childcare-and-early-years/Childcare-providers-and-places/Registered-childcare-providers-and-places-in-England-December-2008-onwards

Information between September 2006 and August 2008:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Childcare-and-early-years/Childcare-providers-and-places/Registered-childcare-providers-and-places-in-England-September-2006-to-August-2008

Information between March 2003 and June 2006:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Childcare-and-early-years/Childcare-providers-and-places/Registered-childcare-providers-and-places-in-England-March-2003-June-2006

In addition, Ofsted has published figures on childminders joining and leaving the register since November 2006, which showed figures for childminders joining and leaving the register between April 2005 and September 2006. These data are shown in each local authority's Early Years Statistical Profile, available via each local authority's page on the Ofsted website:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/list_by_la

With the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008 Ofsted reviewed its publications and decided to incorporate data on providers joining and leaving registers in its regular quarterly publication on child care providers and places. Ofsted published these datasets together for the first time in January 2010, showing figures of providers joining and leaving the registers between 1 October 2009 and 31 December 2009:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Childcare-and-early-years/Childcare-providers-and-places/Registered-childcare-providers-and-places-in-England-December-2008-onwards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places there are in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* nationally; and how many such places are required in each of those areas to meet the Government's 2010 target. [323777]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of childcare places registered with Ofsted available nationally and in each London borough is shown in the following table.

In 'Choice for parents: the best start for Children' the Government set out a range of targets and ambitions, to achieve its 10-year childcare strategy, including some to be achieved by 2010. However, many of these were not expressed in terms of delivering a specific number of places.

The ambition to ensure parents can access suitable childcare places has been met by placing duties on all English local authorities to assess and secure sufficient childcare places in their area for children aged 0-14 (18 for disabled children).

Table: Number[1] of child care places[2] for children under eight years of age in England and in each London borough—position at 31 December 2009

Region	Places
England	1,321,100
Inner London	
City of London	300
Camden	5,500
Hackney	6,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,300

Table: Number[1] of child care places[2] for children under eight years of age in England and in each London borough—position at 31 December 2009

Region	Places
Haringey	4,900
Islington	4,600
Kensington and Chelsea	3,700
Lambeth	7,300
Lewisham	7,600
Newham	4,800
Southwark	9,000
Tower Hamlets	4,200
Wandsworth	8,300
Westminster	3,800
Outer London	
Barking and Dagenham	4,000
Barnet	8,800
Bexley	5,400
Brent	6,000
Bromley	10,300
Croydon	11,000
Ealing	7,800
Enfield	7,200
Greenwich	6,800
Harrow	4,700
Havering	5,000
Hillingdon	6,300
Hounslow	4,900
Kingston upon Thames	4,600
Merton	4,600
Redbridge	6,400
Richmond upon Thames	6,900
Sutton	4,500
Waltham Forest	6,400

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
[2] Data Source: Ofsted—total includes childminders, child care on non-domestic premises, child care on domestic premises and home child carer.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much Ofsted received in registration fees from all child care settings in 2008-09. [325316]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 6 April 2010]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places have been created in Preston since 1997. [311066]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of childcare places is not available below local authority level.

Children: Mental Health

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what account the Targeted Mental Health in Schools programme takes of needs related to emotional well-being of children with *(a)* a learning disability, *(b)* an autistic spectrum disorder, *(c)* a physical disability and *(d)* a sensory disability. [325736]

Dawn Primarolo: The Targeted Mental Health in Schools Programme (TaMHS) builds on the existing universal approaches to supporting emotional well-being that schools are already using, such as social and environmental aspects of learning, by offering targeted therapeutic interventions for individuals or groups of children at risk of developing mental health problems. Funded by the DCSF by £60 million from 2008 to 2011, all local authorities are now involved in offering the programme within school clusters that are participating. The inclusion of special schools is particularly encouraged within the conditions of grant.

TaMHS is focused on identifying the children who may be vulnerable to mental health issues and need additional support, and offering them appropriate evidence-based interventions. While the programme is not designed to replicate or replace other funded support (such as through a statement of Special educational needs) all children's needs should be considered equally when identifying who should be offered targeted interventions through TaMHS. Each child's individual circumstances, including whether they have additional needs, and any funded support that they already receive, will be taken into account when deciding what additional support or interventions might be most appropriate.

Children: Sight Impaired

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on the introduction of testing of school pupils for colour blindness. [324733]

Dawn Primarolo: The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has not received any recent representations on the introduction of testing for colour vision impairments in schools.

Children: Methadone and Protection

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Heeley, Meg Munn of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 817W, on methadone, if he will take steps to enable the number of child deaths subject to serious case review which are methadone-related to be calculated. [321631]

Dawn Primarolo: Local authorities should notify Ofsted where a death or serious injury occurs and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor (and so may lead to the commissioning of a Serious Case Review). The precise cause and nature of death may not always be known at the time of the notification, and could change after further investigations are carried out such as a post-mortem or coroner's inquest.

Information held by the Department for Children, Schools and Families is provided by Ofsted and is based on available information at the point of notification by the local authority. Records are sometimes updated if further information is received on the cause of death but this is not undertaken systematically. We have no present plans to extend procedures or the operation of the relevant database in the way suggested. However, making use of the database and of individual anonymised SCRs the authors of the report 'Understanding Serious

Case Reviews and their Impact: A Biennial Analysis of Serious Case Reviews 2005-07', published in June 2009, suggest that:

"A small number of deaths (fewer than six) were as a result of the child ingesting their parent's drug, most often methadone."

Children's Centres: Publicity

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much was spent on communications and publicity for Sure Start centres in each year since 2004; how much he plans to spend in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement; [301509]

(2) how many changes of design have taken place for Sure Start Children's Centre signage since 2004; what the reasons were for each change; and if he will make a statement; [301510]

(3) how many promotional leaflets for Sure Start Children's Centres were sent out by door drop in each financial year since 2004; how many are planned for 2009-10; in which *(a)* postcode areas and *(b)* local authority wards such door drops have taken place in each financial year since 2004; and if he will make a statement; [301511]

(4) how much was spent on radio advertising for Sure Start Children's Centres in each financial year since 2004; how much expenditure is planned for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement; [301512]

(5) how much was spent on press advertisements for Sure Start Children's Centres in each financial year since 2004; how much expenditure is planned for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement; [301513]

(6) how much was spent on creative development of advertising for Sure Start Children's Centres in each financial year since 2004; how much expenditure is planned for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [301514]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is as follows:

301509

On 16 March, the Prime Minister announced that the Government had met its target for 3,500 Sure Start Children's Centres. It is important that all families with young children are aware of the range of services available, and where their local children's centre is. The Department undertook analysis in early 2009 of current research which highlighted a lack of awareness about the range of services available or that it is a universal service. The Department has therefore run the first ever national communications campaign to boost awareness of children's centres which commenced September 2009 and early evaluation is positive—with an increase of over 40 per cent. in the number of parents (in areas targeted by the campaign) who know about their local children's centre.

The amount spent on communications and publicity for children's centres in each year is set out in the following table. It is not possible to provide figures back to 2004, because children's centre communications activity was incorporated into wider communications budgets covering early years and childcare. The amount spent in 2009-10 is higher than previous years as 2009-10 is when the Department ran its first national communications campaign for Sure Start Children's Centres, and represents 0.29 per cent. of the total 2009-10 programme budget for Sure Start Children's Centres.

Table 1: Specific Sure Start Children's Centres related communications to the public

Financial Year	Amount (£)
2007-08	35,800
2008-09	188,100
2009-10[1]	3,418,600

[1] As at 23 March 2010

301510

Since 2004, there have been two updates to the branding guidelines for Sure Start Children's Centres, both of which set out expectations for how external signage should look. The first update was in March 2006, which established Sure Start as the overall brand for all services for 0 to 5-year-olds and created a new Sure Start logo. A further update to branding guidelines was made in March 2009, to reflect the establishment of the national network of Sure Start Children's Centres.

301511

As part of the national communications campaign an estimated 2,400,000 leaflets advertising Sure Start Children's Centres were sent to specific postcodes via door drops (see Tables 2 and 3). The postcodes in Table 2 were selected according to population density and deprivation and those in Table 3 according to rurality and deprivation. We do not hold details of which local authority wards these postcodes represent and have supplied details of the upper tier local authority in Tables 2 and 3. A copy of tables 2 and 3 will be placed in the Libraries. Local authorities and individual centres may have conducted their own door drop leaflet distribution, but this information is not collected by the Department. Door drop leaflet distribution is an effective way of targeting potential users of children's centres among families who may be less likely to access children centres.

301512

National radio advertising for Sure Start Children's Centres started for the first time in 2009-10. The total amount spent on radio advertising in 2009-10 was £951,800. Radio advertising is effective at building awareness on a national level and reaching out to parents who may be unaware of children's centres and the services they offer.

301513

Press advertising for Sure Start Children's Centres started in 2008-09 and 2009-10. The total amount spent on press advertising in 2008-2009 was £150,000; and in 2009-10 it was £831,600. Press advertising is particularly useful in conveying the range of services available at children's centres.

301514

The Department commissioned specialist creative development of advertising for Sure Start Children's Centres in 2009-10 only. The total amount spent was £87,300 in 2009-10. The creative development is a crucial part of the planning process. This research helps us to understand whether the advertisements are clear and engaging for the audience before they are rolled out nationally. This ensures that we can receive the optimum return on investment.

Children's Commissioner for England

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to the public purse was of the operation of the office of the Children's Commissioner for England in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [325746]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 7 April 2010]:* For the financial year 2009-10 the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England received £2,669,818.00 grant in aid from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Curriculum: Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency spent on developing the National Curriculum in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [321200]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The latest financial year for which figures are available is 2008-09. During that year the Department spent £317,000 on developing the national curriculum by providing support to the Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum.

During the same period the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency spent £1.6 million on developing the national curriculum in support of the Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on rooms for staff leisure in each of the last five years. [324433]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007. Since then expenditure on rooms for staff leisure has been as follows:

	2007-08	*2008-09*	£ *2009-10*
London Site Fitness Centre Refurbishment	—	327,538	—
London Site Fitness Centre Annual Occupancy Costs	93,511	191,548	299,722
Sheffield Site Fitness Centre Annual Occupancy Costs	2,253	2,345	2,138

Departmental Consultants

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much consultants employed by his Department and its agencies have been paid *(a)* in total and *(b)* in reimbursable expenses since its inception. [313999]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: From the year 2005-06 the figures set out in the table reflect comparable annual consultancy costs for DCSF (from FY 2007-08) and its predecessor Department (DFES) covering both administration and programme costs:

Expenditure on consultants

	£ million
2005-06	21.5
2006-07	45.1
2007-08	61.4
2008-09	59.2

Figures for prior years are available for administration costs only as these were not recorded centrally before November 2004.

Figures for reimbursable expenses are not recorded separately to consultancy costs and cannot be provided.

These figures cover the Department itself, we do not separately record the costs incurred by our agencies and NDPBs and are therefore unable to provide this detail.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on consultancy in the latest year for which figures are available. [316571]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Figures for the former Department for Education and Skills show that it spent the following sums from administration costs (the Department's internal running costs) on consultancy from 1997:

	£ million
1997-98	3.9
1998-99	5.0
1999-2000	3.7
2000-01	4.3
2001-02	5.0
2002-03	4.0
2003-04	4.7
2004-05	3.9

The costs of consultancy charged to programmes budgets (supporting external front line delivery) before November 2004 was not recorded centrally, and could now be provided only at disproportionate cost. The total cost of consultancy charged to programmes from November to March 2004-05 was £4.4 million.

From the year 2005-06, consultancy costs as a whole have been captured. Set out in the following table are comparable annual consultancy costs for the Department.

Expenditure on consultants

	£ million
2005-06	21.5
2006-07	45.1
2007-08	61.4
2008-09	59.2

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to his Department was of employing press and media officers in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of employing such staff in the financial year 1996-97, expressed in current prices. [324809]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department employs 26 people in the press office.

The total salary cost for the Department's press office in the financial year 2008-09 was £1,350,713.10.

In the financial year 1996-97 the Department employed 19 people in the press office at an actual cost of £702,000. It is not possible to express this in real terms except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many complaints his Department received on difficulties using its website in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [325203]

(2) how much his Department spent on external website design consultants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [325221]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300642]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Bonuses and incentives to consultants and contractors are a matter for the non-departmental public bodies themselves. Central records are not held and could be obtained at only disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of his Department's expenditure under each line of Table 8.4 of his Department's Report for 2009 is included in the 75 per cent. of the budget to be protected in 2011-12 and 2012-13. [322493]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 16 March 2010]:* The pre-Budget report confirmed that from 2011-13 funding for Sure Start will continue to rise in line with inflation; funding for 16 to 19 learning will rise by 0.9 per cent. year on year with an extra £202 million this year to meet our September Guarantee; and funding for schools will increase by 0.7 per cent. in real terms, which at current inflation levels will mean a cash increase of 2.7 per cent.

This means that 75 per cent. of the DCSF budget has been protected. The document, 'Investing for the Future, Protecting the Front Line: School Funding 2010', published on 15 March, showed how the DCSF budget breaks down in 2010-11 into the front-line areas protected in the PBR and the remaining areas from which the Department is finding £500 million savings in the 2011-13 period. A further breakdown will be provided when we publish our annual report later in the year.

Departmental Public Relations

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with which public relations companies *(a)* his Department, *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible and *(c)* other bodies sponsored by his Department have had contracts in each year since 2004. [317840]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Public relations agencies are employed for specific communications tasks, most commonly working alongside our press office to provide campaign support in local, regional and specialist media. The Department's expenditure on public relations for complete financial years, since its formation in June 2007, is outlined in the following table:

	Total spend (£)
2007-08	2,333,000
2008-09	4,023,403

Increased expenditure for 2008-09 is related to the 14 to 19 reform and the diploma, both of which were launched in 2008

The other requested information cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Theft

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to deter theft from within the Department. [322641]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: DCSF, like all Departments, aims to have effective security measures in place to guard against theft and other threats. Measures to deter, prevent and detect theft are an essential feature of the Department's protective security controls. These controls reflect the standards set out in the HMG Security Policy Framework (SPF) issued by Cabinet Office and available online at:

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/spf.aspx

It would not be appropriate to provide details of specific controls as this could undermine their effectiveness.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on first-class travel for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of each grade in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the last 12 months. [325106]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: No Ministers or DCSF officials took first- class air travel during the period April 2009 to March 2010.

DCSF agency officials spent £8,640 on first class air travel during this period.

DCSF Ministers spent £8,146 on first class rail travel during this period.

DCSF officials spent £2,447,616 on first class rail travel during this period.

DCSF agency officials spent £3,816,469 on first class rail travel during this period.

The data have been provided by the Department's contractor for travel booking, Carlson Wagonlit Travel.

Devolved Schools Grant

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what purposes the retained element of the devolved schools grant will be used; and if he will make a statement. [318228]

Mr. Coaker: In accordance with the school finance (England) regulations, local authorities in England are permitted to deduct funding from their schools budget for the purposes of central expenditure. Schedule 2 of the school finance (England) regulations sets out the areas of expenditure that local authorities can retain centrally such as: special educational needs provision, pupil referral units, behaviour support services, education out of school, expenditure on the provision of nursery education other than in maintained schools, threshold and performance pay for teachers' salaries, expenditure on the administration of the local authority's admissions and appeals system for their schools, and school contingencies.

Free School Meals: A-Levels

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals were entered for A-levels in each subject in 2009. [318406]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the following table. Please note that this information covers pupils in school sixth forms only; pupils entered for A-level examinations in sixth form or further education colleges are excluded from the figures.

	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals entered in examination	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals entered in examination*
Biology	794	14.1
Biology: Human	23	0.4
Chemistry	652	11.6
Physics	286	5.1
Science: Single award	0	0.0
Science: Electronics	[c]	[c]
Science: Environmental	3	0.1
Science: Geology	6	0.1
Mathematics	836	14.8
Mathematics (Pure)	0	0.0
Mathematics (Statistics)	6	0.1
Mathematics (Further)	64	1.1
Additional Mathematics	0	0.0
Computer Studies/ Computing	38	0.7
Information Technology	171	3.0
Business Studies	340	6.0
Business Studies and Economics	29	0.5
Home Economics	[c]	[c]
Art and Design	198	3.5
Art and Design (Graphics)	36	0.6
Art and Design (Photography)	102	1.8
Art and Design (Textiles)	62	1.1
Art and Design (3-D studies)	7	0.1
Art and Design (Critical Studies)	[c]	[c]
Fine Art	226	4.0
History of Art	0	0.0
Geography	223	4.0
World Development	3	0.1
History	573	10.2
Economics	188	3.3
Religious Studies	480	8.5
Archaeology	0	0.0
Law	216	3.8
Logic/Philosophy	28	0.5
Government and Politics	178	3.2
Psychology	901	16.0
Sociology	750	13.3
English	205	3.6
English Language	250	4.4
English Literature	863	15.3
Drama and Theatre	280	5.0
Communication Studies	21	0.4
Performing Studies	27	0.5
Media/Film/Television Studies	542	9.6
Film Studies	80	1.4
Dutch	14	0.2
French	124	2.2
German	47	0.8
Italian	5	0.1
Modern Greek	[c]	[c]
Portuguese	4	0.1
Spanish	50	0.9
Arabic	30	0.5
Bengali	4	0.1
Chinese	7	0.1
Gujarati	[c]	[c]
Japanese	0	0.0
Modern Hebrew	[c]	[c]
Punjabi	5	0.1
Polish	[c]	[c]
Russian	4	0.1
Turkish	20	0.4
Urdu	46	0.8
Persian	10	0.2
Ancient History	3	0.1
Classical Civilisation	29	0.5
Greek	0	0.0
Latin	[c]	[c]
Other Classical Languages	0	0.0
Music	45	0.8
Music Technology	32	0.6
Sport/Physical Education Studies	167	3.0
Dance	34	0.6
Accounting/Finance	29	0.5

	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals entered in examination	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals entered in examination
General Studies	530	9.4
Critical Thinking	21	0.4
Design/Tech and Food	27	0.5
Design/Tech and Systems	4	0.1
Design/Tech and Production	221	3.9

[1] Figures have been suppressed to preserve anonymity.
Note:
Includes maintained schools only including CTCs and academies.

GCE A-level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* maintained, *(b)* independent and *(c)* comprehensive schools achieved three or more A grades at A-level in 2009. [304908]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information for 2009 and 1997 is as follows:

2009 (provisional)

	Number of candidates achieving three or more A grades at GCE/Applied GCE A-level and Double Awards	Percentage of candidates achieving three or more A grades at GCE/ Applied GCE A-level and Double Awards
Comprehensive schools[1]	9,600	8.0
All maintained schools[2]	15,300	10.4
Independent schools[3]	11,400	31.9
All schools	26,700	14.6

1997

	Number of candidates achieving three or more A grades at GCE A-level	Percentage of candidates achieving three or more A grades at GCE A-level
Comprehensive schools[1]	4,300	4.7
All maintained schools[2]	6,400	5.9
Independent schools[3]	6,100	16.9
All schools	15,500	6.7

[1] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[2] Includes the results for community and foundation special schools, hospital schools and pupil referral units.
[3] Includes non-maintained special schools.
Notes:
1. Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August).
2. 2009 Figures are provisional.
3. Applied A-levels and Double Awards did not exist in 1997.

The 2009 information is derived from table 1 of the "GCE/Applied GCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2008/09" Statistical First Release, found at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000881/index.shtml

Figures for 1997 are derived from the Achievement and Attainment Tables data.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils did not gain one or more GCSEs, excluding equivalents, at grade *(a)* G, *(b)* E, *(c)* D and *(d)* C or above in 2009. [316607]

Mr. Coaker: The information required is given in the following table:

Number and proportion of pupils who did not gain one or more GCSEs, excluding equivalents at the selected grades

	1997		2009	
Grades	Number	Proportion (percentage)	Number	Proportion (percentage)
G or above	45,074	7.7	19,867	3.1
E or above	65,329	11.1	37,813	6.0
D or above	101,822	17.4	65,429	10.3
C or above	173,197	29.5	119,687	18.9

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables.

The data for 1997 relate to pupils aged 15 and for 2009 relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

The figures are cumulative, in that if a pupil is included as not gaining G or above, they will also be included in the data as not receiving E or above, D or above and C or above.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* maintained schools and *(b)* comprehensive schools in each local authority area entered no students for GCSE examinations for (i) physics, (ii) chemistry, (iii) biology and (iv) all three in the most recent year for which figures are available. [318672]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* The requested figures are given in the following table 2009.

This answer has been derived from the achievement and attainment tables data.

The majority of pupils take Science GCSE (also referred to as core science) and Additional Science GCSE. This combination of science GCSEs provides a perfectly good foundation for further study of physics, chemistry and biology at A level.

The number of maintained schools that had pupils that were entered for all three sciences has increased from just over 600 in 2002 to just over 1,500 in 2009.

The Government have introduced a statutory entitlement for all pupils in maintained schools to be able to study at least two science GCSEs, specifically this includes core and additional science or the three separate science GCSEs of physics, chemistry and biology.

There is a further non-statutory entitlement that those pupils who have achieved at least level 6 at key stage 3 will be given the opportunity to study triple science at GCSE either at their own school or through collaborative arrangements with other schools and colleges.

Since September 2008 all specialist science schools have to offer triple science to at least all pupils achieving level 6+ at the end of key stage 3. Since September 2009 we have expected all engineering and technology colleges to offer triple science, and expect all mathematics and computing colleges to do so from September 2010.

	Number of comprehensive schools entering no pupils at the end of key stage 4 for GCSEs in				*Number of maintained mainstream schools entering no pupils at the end of key stage 4 for GCSEs in*			
LA name	*Biology*	*Chemistry*	*Physics*	*All three separate sciences*	*Biology*	*Chemistry*	*Physics*	*All three separate sciences*
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camden	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3
Greenwich	6	7	7	7	6	7	7	7
Hackney	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Hammersmith and Fulham	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Islington	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Kensington and Chelsea	2	3	4	4	2	3	4	4
Lambeth	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3
Lewisham	4	4	5	5	4	4	5	5
Southwark	5	7	6	8	5	7	6	8
Tower Hamlets	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Wandsworth	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Westminster	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Barking and Dagenham	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Barnet	7	9	9	9	9	11	11	11
Bexley	4	4	4	4	9	9	9	9
Brent	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Bromley	5	5	4	5	5	5	4	5
Croydon	9	10	10	10	10	11	11	11
Ealing	6	6	6	8	6	6	6	6
Enfield	8	9	9	9	9	10	10	10
Haringey	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Harrow	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Havering	10	9	10	10	10	9	10	10
Hillingdon	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Hounslow	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	0	0	3	4	3	4
Merton	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Newham	10	10	11	11	10	10	11	11
Redbridge	3	5	5	5	3	5	5	5
Richmond upon Thames	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Sutton	4	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
Waltham Forest	12	12	12	13	13	12	12	13
Birmingham	39	38	38	39	39	38	38	39
Coventry	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Dudley	14	13	13	14	14	13	13	14
Sandwell	12	11	12	12	12	11	12	12
Solihull	6	7	7	7	6	7	7	7
Walsall	7	8	8	9	7	8	8	9
Wolverhampton	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
Knowsley	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Liverpool	14	14	13	14	14	14	13	14
St. Helens	6	7	7	7	6	7	7	7
Sefton	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Wirral	4	4	4	4	7	7	7	7
Bolton	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bury	9	8	8	9	9	8	8	9
Manchester	14	16	16	16	14	16	16	16
Oldham	7	7	7	8	7	7	7	8
Rochdale	10	10	9	11	10	10	9	11
Salford	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Stockport	6	7	7	7	6	7	7	7
Tameside	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Trafford	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	10
Wigan	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Barnsley	8	8	8	9	9	9	8	8
Doncaster	8	9	9	9	8	9	9	9

LA name	Number of comprehensive schools entering no pupils at the end of key stage 4 for GCSEs in				Number of maintained mainstream schools entering no pupils at the end of key stage 4 for GCSEs in			
	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	All three separate sciences	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	All three separate sciences
Rotherham	6	6	6	7	6	6	6	7
Sheffield	13	14	12	14	13	14	12	14
Bradford	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
Calderdale	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8
Kirklees	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Leeds	16	17	16	17	16	17	16	17
Wakefield	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Gateshead	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Newcastle upon Tyne	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
North Tyneside	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
South Tyneside	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
Sunderland	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Bristol, City of	7	7	8	8	7	7	8	8
North Somerset	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
South Gloucestershire	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Hartlepool	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Middlesbrough	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Redcar and Cleveland	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Stockton-on-Tees	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Kingston upon Hull, City of	11	10	10	11	11	10	10	11
East Riding of Yorkshire	6	6	6	7	6	6	6	7
North East Lincolnshire	6	6	5	6	6	6	5	6
North Lincolnshire	5	5	3	5	5	5	3	5
North Yorkshire	20	20	21	21	21	23	24	24
York	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Luton	5	6	6	6	5	6	6	6
Bedford	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Central Bedfordshire	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Buckinghamshire	0	0	0	0	19	20	20	20
Milton Keynes	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Derbyshire	21	23	23	23	21	23	23	23
Derby	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Dorset	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Poole	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4
Bournemouth	2	2	2	2	4	7	7	7
Durham	27	27	26	27	27	27	26	27
Darlington	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
East Sussex	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Brighton and Hove	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Hampshire	24	25	25	25	24	25	25	25
Portsmouth	5	6	6	7	5	6	6	7
Southampton	7	7	6	7	7	7	6	7
Leicestershire	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Leicester	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	9
Rutland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
Stoke-on-Trent	8	8	8	9	8	8	8	9
Wiltshire	10	10	10	10	14	14	14	14
Swindon	2	5	5	5	2	5	5	5
Bracknell Forest	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Windsor and Maidenhead	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
West Berkshire	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Reading	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Slough	1	1	1	1	7	8	8	8
Wokingham	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Cambridgeshire	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Peterborough	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Halton	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Warrington	5	5	5	6	5	5	5	6

LA name	Number of comprehensive schools entering no pupils at the end of key stage 4 for GCSEs in				Number of maintained mainstream schools entering no pupils at the end of key stage 4 for GCSEs in			
	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	All three separate sciences	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	All three separate sciences
Devon	13	16	16	16	13	16	16	16
Plymouth	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Torbay	5	5	5	5	7	7	7	7
Essex	29	29	29	30	29	29	29	30
Southend-on-sea	4	5	4	5	6	7	6	7
Thurrock	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Herefordshire	8	9	9	10	8	9	9	10
Worcestershire	13	13	14	14	13	13	15	15
Kent	8	12	12	12	38	52	49	52
Medway	1	1	1	1	9	10	11	12
Lancashire	31	36	36	38	32	37	37	39
Blackburn with Darwen	7	7	6	7	7	7	6	7
Blackpool	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Nottinghamshire	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
Nottingham	10	11	12	12	10	11	12	12
Shropshire	13	14	14	14	13	14	14	14
Telford and Wrekin	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Cheshire East	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8
Cheshire West and Chester	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Cornwall	11	12	12	12	11	12	12	12
Cumbria	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Gloucestershire	17	16	16	17	18	17	17	18
Hertfordshire	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
Isle of Wight	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Lincolnshire	8	9	9	10	26	28	29	30
Norfolk	24	26	26	26	24	26	26	26
Northamptonshire	12	11	11	12	12	11	11	12
Northumberland	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Oxfordshire	15	16	16	16	15	16	16	16
Somerset	14	15	14	15	14	15	14	15
Suffolk	14	17	17	17	14	17	17	17
Surrey	14	17	16	17	14	17	16	17
Warwickshire	9	10	10	10	12	13	14	14
West Sussex	15	16	16	16	15	16	16	16

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in each local authority area did not attain any GCSEs above grade D in the most recent year for which figures are available. [318898]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested for pupils attending maintained schools (including city technology colleges and academies) has been placed in the Libraries.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils not eligible for free school meals attended schools at which fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in 2009. [318962]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 1 March 2010]:* In 2009, there were 242,990 pupils not known to be eligible for free school meals attending schools at which fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents[1] (includes post 16 pupils).

[1] Includes maintained mainstream schools (including academies) with more than 10 pupils that were published in the 2009 Achievement and Attainment tables. Qualifications include GCSEs, GCSE short courses, GCSE double awards, vocational single and double GCSEs and AS levels.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has made an assessment for benchmarking purposes of educational attainment at GCSE in England in comparison with attainment of children of the same age in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. [321321]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not benchmark educational attainment for England against that for Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

The Department does publish data on educational attainment at GCSE across the UK and for England. Equivalent data for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of, and published by, the respective devolved Administrations.

The following table gives a breakdown of educational attainment at GCSE across the UK since 2005:

GCE, GCSE, SCE/NQ and vocational qualifications obtained by pupils[1] and students (in their last year of compulsory education)

Percentage of pupils achieving GCSE or equivalent[2]	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
5 or more grades A*-C[3]	59.0	61.3	64.4
5 or more grades A*-C including English and maths	—	—	47.7

[1] Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year; pupils in Year S4 in Scotland. From 2004/05, pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in England.
[2] From 2007/08 data are for 5+ A*-C, 5+ A*-C including English and Maths and Any Passes.
[3] Standard Grades 1-3/Intermediate 2 A-C/Intermediate 1 A in Scotland.
Source:
Education and Training Statistics for the United Kingdom 2009

The following table gives a breakdown for England:

GCSE and equivalent qualifications obtained by pupils at the end of Key Stage 4

Percentage of pupils achieving GCSE or equivalent	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
5 or more grades A*-C	59.0	61.4	65.3	70.0
5 or more grades A*-C including English and maths	45.6	46.3	47.6	49.8

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals achieved *(a)* one or more A to G grades, *(b)* three or more A to C grades and *(c)* three or more A grades at A-level in 2003. [318939]

Mr. Coaker: Figures for 2003 are shown in the following table:

Pupils eligible for free school meals achieving	*Number*	*Percentage*
(a) one or more A to E grades	4,610	93.4
(b) three or more A to C grades	845	17.1
(c) three or more A grades	94	1.9

Percentages indicated are of all students eligible for free school meals who were entered for at least one GCEA/CE/Applied A Level and Double Awards in 2003.

The figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2002) in maintained schools only who were eligible for free school meals. The figures do not include the achievement of students in further education sector colleges previously eligible for free school meals.

Gifted Children

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils with gifted and talented status did not sit any A-levels in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2003, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [316870]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has collected information about individual pupil's Gifted and Talented status in Secondary schools since 2006. The information available to answer this question is provided in the following table. Please note that this information covers pupils in school sixth forms only; pupils entered for A-level examinations in sixth form or further education colleges are excluded from the figures.

Pupils with Gifted and Talented status who did not sit any A-levels in selected years

	Number	*Percentage*
2006	112	1.0
2008	637	2.3
2009	675	2.1

Source:
National Pupil Database.

Pupils identified as gifted and talented are defined as

"Children and young people with one or more abilities developed to a level significantly ahead of their year group (or with the potential to develop those abilities)".

Included are students identified for their talent in, for example, creative arts or sports rather than their ability to excel academically.

International Baccalaureate

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools offer an International Baccalaureate course; and if he will make a statement. [325304]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not hold information on the courses offered by schools. However, information on the courses entered by students is available.

69 schools[1] entered students for an International Baccalaureate (IB) during the 2008/09 academic year. A further 22 FE colleges had IB candidates in 2008/09.

[1] Maintained and independent schools.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of students enrolled in International Baccalaureate courses were entitled to free school meals in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [325306]

Mr. Coaker: As collected in the 2009 autumn school census, 1,679 students were studying International Baccalaureate courses, of these 5.3 per cent. were eligible to receive free school meals (89 students).

Karen Matthews

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board on the timetable for the publication of the executive summary of the serious case review of the Karen Matthews case. [324765]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 29 March 2010]:* As part of their challenge and support function, officials from the Government office for Yorkshire and the Humber keep in close contact with progress being made by Local Safeguarding Children Boards in their region

which are conducting serious case reviews. I understand that the Government office has had a number of discussions with Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board about the timetable for this particular, very complex serious case review. Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board hopes to complete it shortly and to publish the executive summary as soon as they are able to do so, after evaluation by Ofsted.

Languages: GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* comprehensive, *(b)* academy and *(c)* independent schools were entered for a GCSE in each modern language in the last year for which figures are available. [314925]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 February 2010]:* The information relating to GCSE entries in 2008-09 is given in the following table:

	Number of entries in comprehensive schools	*Number of entries in academies*	*Number of entries in independent schools*
Welsh	[1]—	0	0
Irish	[1]—	0	0
Dutch	393	46	30
French	123,942	2,428	26,730
German	52,702	1,024	7,218
Italian	2,415	33	684
Modern Greek	311	15	60
Portuguese	1,134	93	24
Spanish	39,590	1,166	11,228
Arabic	1,325	118	718
Bengali	1,172	66	98
Chinese	959	60	1,280
Gujarati	707	29	114
Japanese	611	0	191
Modern Hebrew	251	0	170
Panjabi	700	48	27
Polish	1,741	117	23
Russian	746	66	630
Turkish	988	84	43
Urdu	3,716	168	911
Persian	364	19	38
All subjects	233,774	5,580	50,217

[1] Figures suppressed due to small numbers

Notes:

1. Figures relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4 in the 2008-09 academic year and include attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.
2. Entries for academies are also included in the comprehensive schools figures.

Source:

Achievement and Attainment Tables data

Literacy: Primary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* publication and distribution and *(b)* training in respect of the Letters and Sounds programme in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [318261]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information is as follows:

(a) Full costs for 'Letters and Sounds' are detailed as follows. We cannot identify specific figures for publication and distribution. These costs form part of the National Strategies contract funding:

Description	*2006-07*	£ *2007-08*
Project management costs	219,508	79,677
Project costs	851,633	1,313,900
Total 'Letters and Sounds'	1,071,141	1,393,577
Total cost of 'Letters and Sounds'	2,464,718	

(b) Training in respect of 'Letters and Sounds' forms part of the work of the National Strategy's regional consultants, and is included in their contract funding. It is not possible to break down specific costs for this.

National Curriculum Tests

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children achieved the national standard in each of the 13 assessment scales of the Foundation Stage Profile assessments in *(a)* England and *(b)* each London borough in each year since the inception of those assessments. [325566]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding reply 6 April 2010]:* Children who achieve six points or more are deemed to be working securely within the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. The percentage of children working securely in each of the 13 assessment scales has been published in an annual Statistical First Release since 2005.

The information available for 2007 to 2009 can be found in the "Six plus" columns of table A in the additional local authority and Government office region tables of the following Statistical First Releases:

SFR 32/2007, available at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000752/index.shtml

SFR 25/2008, available at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000812/index.shtml

and SFR 26/2009, available at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000879/index.shtml

The information for 2005 and 2006 can be found in table B of the additional local authority tables of the following Statistical First Releases:

SFR 03/2006, available at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000634/index.shtml

and SFR 03/2007, available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000704/index.shtml

Please note that care should be taken when comparing 2005 and 2006 figures between local authorities, as the assessments were not yet well established which may have caused inconsistencies in moderation.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has undertaken costings of the policies of the *(a)* Conservative Party and *(b)* Liberal Democrat Party at the request of Ministers or special advisers in the last 36 months. [324243]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Her Majesty's Treasury coordinates or clears any costing of Opposition policies. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury on 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1044W.

Pre-school Education

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many nurseries there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each London borough in each year from 1997 to 2009; and what proportion of those nurseries in each area was assessed by Ofsted as inadequate in each of those years. [325565]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 6 April 2010]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert will write to the hon. Member and copies of her reply will be placed in the Library.

Schools: Employment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will issue guidance to school governors on their individual liability in respect of decisions on the employment of staff. [324776]

Mr. Coaker: The Governors Guide to the Law is a guidance document produced by the Department and issued to governing bodies of all maintained schools to provide advice in relation to their statutory roles and responsibilities. This guidance is reviewed and updated biannually to ensure governors are provided with accurate, up to date information. Chapter 3 of the Guide provides specific guidance in relation to governor liability.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1937-8W, on schools, what proportion of the expenditure on curriculum is received by schools; and if he will make a statement. [314157]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In 2010-2011, £3.5 million will be allocated directly to schools to support the delivery of the science curriculum and at least £21 million for primary languages. However, all planned expenditure on schools will assist them in the delivery of the curriculum.

Schools: Inspections

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much on average an Ofsted inspection of *(a)* a nursery, *(b)* a children's centre, *(c)* a primary school, *(d)* a secondary school and *(e)* local authority children's services cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [317081]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, will write to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Schools: Radicalism

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) on how many occasions Ofsted undertook an additional school inspection in response to concerns about the effect of possible links with extremism on the standard of education provided in a school in the last five years; and who is responsible for the decision to undertake such an inspection; [325140]

(2) on what occasions *(a)* Ofsted and *(b)* his Department has received information from each source on possible links between a school and extremism in the last 10 years; and what steps were taken in response to that information on each occasion; [325141]

(3) on what statutory basis Ofsted undertakes an additional or targeted inspection in response to concerns about the effect of possible links with extremism on the standard of education provided in a school; and what the *(a)* duration and *(b)* remit is of such inspections; [325142]

(4) what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* criteria are used by Ofsted to determine whether to undertake an additional inspection in response to concerns about the effect of possible links with extremism on the standard of education provided in a school; [325143]

(5) what definition Ofsted uses of extremism in assessing information on possible links between schools and extremism; and what criteria it uses to classify a school as having links with extremism. [325144]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* Ofsted is required to carry out regular inspections of all maintained schools under section 5 of the Education Act 2005. All independent schools are inspected regularly against the standards for independent schools under s. 162A of the Education Act 2002.

In addition, the Secretary of State may require Ofsted to inspect a school outside of the routine programme of inspections under section 8(1) of the Education Act 2005 and section 162A of the Education Act 2002.

Section 8(2) of the Education Act 2002 enables the chief inspector to inspect a maintained school where she is not otherwise required to do so, including in response to a parental complaint.

In the case of independent schools, additional inspection visits can be commissioned by the Department if there is evidence that a school might not be meeting any of the independent school standards including concerns about the quality of education or procedures for safeguarding children. Any remedial action or deregistration would take place on the basis that one or more standard had not been met. If there was evidence of that the law may have breached, Ofsted would liaise with the police and other authorities as appropriate.

The duration and focus of an additional inspection depends on the individual circumstances but must relate to Ofsted's remit and the legal requirements relating to

maintained or independent schools. There is no statutory definition of extremism or extremist organisations other than those proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000. Therefore neither Ofsted nor DCSF are able to keep systematic central records of allegations about extremism, nor of alleged links between schools and extremist organisations.

Independent schools are inspected against regulatory standards which include a standard governing the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. This requires independent schools to enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and respect the law and assist pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures in a way that promotes tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions.

Routine inspections of maintained schools include an assessment of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and the school's contribution to promoting community cohesion and the well-being of all of their pupils.

In the last three years Ofsted has conducted inspection work following allegations made in the press about extremism affecting the quality of education at the two schools belonging to the Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation and at King Fahad School.

Secure Training Centres: Children

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* looked after, *(b)* eligible, *(c)* relevant and *(d)* former relevant children are in secure training centres; [323422]

(2) how many *(a)* looked after, *(b)* eligible, *(c)* relevant and *(d)* former relevant children are in custody with (i) an indeterminate sentence for public protection, (ii) an extended sentence and (iii) life sentence; [323423]

(3) how many *(a)* looked after, *(b)* eligible, *(c)* relevant and *(d)* former relevant children are in secure children's homes; [323424]

(4) how many *(a)* looked after, *(b)* eligible, (c) relevant and (d) former relevant children were in custody in 2008 after the date of their 18th birthday; [323425]

(5) how many *(a)* looked-after, *(b)* eligible, *(c)* relevant and *(d)* former relevant children there are in young offender institutions. [323506]

Dawn Primarolo: An "eligible child" is a young person aged 16-18 who has been looked after for the prescribed period (13 weeks) and is then eligible for services under the Children (Leaving Care) Act and who remains looked after by the local authority. A "relevant child" is a young person aged 16-18 who has been looked after for the prescribed period (13 weeks) and is then eligible for services under the Children (Leaving Care) Act and who is no longer looked after by the local authority.

A "former relevant child" is a young person aged 18+ (i.e. legally adult) who was either an "eligible" or a "relevant child" or both who as a result will remain entitled to continuing leaving care support from their responsible local authority until age 21 or longer if continuing in an agreed programme of education or training.

Information on the number of children placed in secure units and in young offenders institutions or prisons who were *(a)* looked after, *(b)* eligible, can be found in the statistical first release titled "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2009".

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000878/index.shtml

Table A3 shows the number of children looked after at 31 March 2005 to 2009, aged up to 17 years (inclusive), who were placed in secure units and in young offenders institutions or prisons. This table can be found in the excel link titled (England Summary tables, included within PDF file).

Information on the number of *(c)* relevant and *(d)* former relevant children who are in secure training centres, secure children's homes, young offender institutions or in custody is not collected by the Department. Information on the numbers in custody with (i) an indeterminate sentence for public protection, (ii) an extended sentence and (iii) life sentence is also not collected by the Department.

Information on the number of former care leavers who were in custody around the time of their 19th birthday, who had previously been looked after aged 16, can also be found in the statistical first release titled "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2009".

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000878/index.shtml

Table G1 shows the number of former care leavers who were in custody around the time of their 19th birthday. This table can be found in the excel link titled (England Summary tables, included within PDF file).

Social Workers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many foster carers caring for children through special guardianship orders have reported to his Department allegations of *(a)* intimidation and *(b)* bullying by social workers in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [309026]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on allegations made about social workers are not collected by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. I am not aware of any allegations about intimidation or bullying by social workers having been reported to the Department by a Special Guardian in the last 12 months.

Social worker employers hold information on allegations made about social workers in their employment as it is their responsibility to investigate such allegations and take appropriate action.

The General Social Care Council also investigates allegations about social workers in its capacity as the regulator of the social work profession in England. The General Social Care Council's report "Raising standards: Social work conduct in England 2003-2008" which includes trend analyses of the cases refefred to them in the period 2003-08 is available here:

http://www.gscc.org.uk/Conduct/Publications+and+useful+documents/

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained schools enrolled no pupils on a diploma course in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [303301]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is estimated that 78 per cent. (2,342) of maintained mainstream schools did not register any diploma learners on the Diploma Aggregation Service (DAS) during 2008/09. Published data on 2008/09 Diploma participation are obtained from the QCDA's DAS, which is used to award diplomas. Schools do not have to register learners on DAS until just before they intend to claim an award. It is possible that there are a number of schools who were delivering diplomas in 2008/09 who did not register any learners on DAS during 2008/09. Similarly, there will be schools which, as members of a diploma consortium, are participating in the delivery of diplomas, but if they are not the 'Home Centre' they will not have learners registered on DAS. The 'Home Centre' is the lead educational institution in the diploma consortium which is responsible for registering the diploma learner on DAS.

Information on the number of schools in 2009/10 currently delivering the diploma is not yet available.

Sports: Primary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of children in maintained schools who participated in intra-school competitive sports in the latest period for which information is available. [315706]

Mr. Iain Wright: The annual PE and Sport survey collects data from maintained schools relating to pupils' participation in PE and sport. The 2008/09 survey found that 69 per cent. of pupils in Years 1-11 took part in intra-school competitive sport in that academic year.

Teachers: Qualifications

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the level of qualifications required for teachers at *(a)* post-16 colleges and *(b)* sixth forms attached to secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [319472]

Mr. Coaker: All teachers who joined the further education sector after September 2007 must, within five years of appointment, meet the standards for qualified teacher learning and skills (QTLS) status. Before they can teach unsupervised all new teachers must have attained the Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning sector award. All teachers in the further education sector must undertake at least 30 hours of continuing professional development each year.

Teachers who teach in a sixth form that is part of a school must meet the standards for qualified teacher status (QTS) before taking up their post. A school may temporarily employ a teacher without QTS if no suitable teacher with QTS is available.

Apart from these statutory requirements, schools and colleges may make individual decisions about any other qualifications they require from their staff for a particular role. My Department does not collect data on individual schools' recruitment criteria, and nor does the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with respect to colleges.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to answer Question 324573, on Ofsted, tabled on 23 March 2010. [325886]

Mr. Coaker: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 7 April 2010, *Official Report*, column 1460W.

Young People: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any of the adolescents identified by the National Treatment Agency as having a Class A drug dependency are using *(a)* more than one Class A drug and *(b)* one or more of (i) alcohol and (ii) cannabis. [325796]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. The NTA report, "Substance misuse among young people: The data for 2008-09", gives figures on numbers of young people (under-18) in drug treatment according to whether each drug type is categorised as the primary or additional substance used as follows:

Drug type	*Primary*	*Additional*
Heroin and other opiates	547	204
Cocaine	745	2,305
Crack	110	304
Ecstasy	210	1,429
Cannabis	12,642	4,811
Amphetamines	229	887
Alcohol	8,799	7,248

Youth Parliaments

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department takes to ensure that its funding for county Youth Parliaments represents value for money; and if he will make a statement; [325681]

(2) how much funding his Department has provided to the Surrey Youth Parliament in each of the last three years. [325682]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 7 April 2010]:* The Department does not directly fund local Youth Parliaments.

We are committed to putting youth voice at the heart of our policies and programmes for young people and it is right that they should have access to the appropriate forums to discuss matters that affect their lives. Giving young people a real say over the issues that affect them leads to better decisions and outcomes, promotes community engagement and helps overturn negative perceptions. Youth Parliaments are one of a number of

ways that young people's voices can be heard by local and national decision makers. Many local authorities choose to support Youth Parliaments as part of their overall arrangements for taking account of young people's views.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Buildings: Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 524W, on buildings: energy, how many and what proportion of properties on the Non-Domestic EPC Register have a Band *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C, *(d)* D, *(e)* E and *(f)* F rating. [316738]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number and proportion of properties on the Non-Domestic EPC Register by rating band as of 8 February is:

Rating band	*Number of lodgements*	*Percentage of lodgements*
A+	10	0.1
A	557	0.38
B	11,701	8.00
C	40,392	27.61
D	42,689	29.18
E	25,524	17.45
F	11,876	8.12
G	13,551	9.26

Council Housing: Rents

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average rent paid for *(a)* one bedroom, *(b)* two bedroom, *(c)* three bedroom and *(d)* all types of council accommodation in (i) City of York, (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (iii) England in (A) 2002-03, (B) 2005-06 and (C) in the latest period figures are available. [322089]

Mr. Ian Austin: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwelling management orders have been issued by each local authority. [319232]

Mr. Ian Austin: 29 interim Empty Dwelling Management Orders have been authorised by the Residential Property Tribunal to date.

Local authority	*Number of interim EDMOs authorised*
Bolton Borough Council	1
Carlisle District Council	2
London Borough of Bromley	1
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	1
London Borough of Hounslow	1
London Borough of Lewisham	5
New Forest District Council	1
Norwich City Council	6
Peterborough City Council	2
South Gloucestershire Council	1
South Norfolk District Council	1
South Oxfordshire District Council	1
South Tyneside Borough Council	1
Southend-On-Sea Borough Council	2
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	1
Swale Borough Council	1
Wychavon District Council	1
Total	29

Empty Dwelling Management Orders should only be considered as a last resort, where all other measures of investigation and negotiation have been exhausted and the local authority has been unable to persuade the owner to bring the property back into use. In many cases the threat of an Empty Dwelling Management Order is sufficient to make owners take action.

First-Time Buyers

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost was of a dwelling purchased by a first-time buyer in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* each Government office region and *(d)* each local authority area in the most recent period for which figures are available. [323529]

Mr. Ian Austin: The latest average mix-adjusted purchase price of a first-time buyer, for January 2010 as well as previous months back to 2002, for England, Wales and Government Office regions are available on the Department's website.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been sold to first-time buyers under Government schemes in each year since 1997. [325856]

John Healey: Since 1997 over 160,000 households have been assisted into home ownership through Government schemes.

A full breakdown of low cost home ownership provision can be found in Live Table 1000 of the communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1406058.xls

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what year his Department began keeping reliable figures relating to net housing supply; and if he will make a statement. [318775]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 25 February 2010]:* Annual estimates of net supply have been made from annual changes in housing stock since the late 1960's. Prior to that estimates were available every 10 years from the population census, back to 1801. In 2000-01 a new data return was introduced to improve estimates of net supply.

Figures on net supply of housing and an explanation of data sources are included in Communities and Local Government's statistical series "Net supply of housing, England". Statistical releases in this series can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link. The latest release was published on 25 February 2010.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/stockincludingvacants/nethousingsupply/

Housing: Overcrowding

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of *(a)* households and *(b)* people in the (i) private rented, (ii) social rented and (iii) owner occupier sector living in overcrowded conditions in each year since 1997. [316236]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested is available on the Department's website.

Housing: Prices

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the ratio of lower quintile house prices to lower quintile earnings was in *(a)* England and *(b)* each government office region in each year since 1996. [323528]

Mr. Ian Austin: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost was of *(a)* a detached house, *(b)* a semi-detached house, *(c)* a terraced house, *(d)* a flat and *(e)* an average dwelling in (i) England, (ii) Wales, (iii) each Government Office region and (iv) each local authority area in (A) 1996-97 and (B) the most recent period for which figures are available. [324618]

Mr. Ian Austin: A table showing the average sale price by property type for 1996-07 and 2009 for each of the areas requested has been placed in the Library of the House. These figures are taken from the Land Registry data.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential property sales there were in each local authority area in the last year for which figures are available. [324479]

Mr. Ian Austin: Data on residential property sales are provided by the Land Registry and published by local authority district on the CLG website.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of domestic properties sold in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* Government office region were sold at above £325,000 in the latest period for which figures are available. [324501]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested is not available in the form requested.

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many Building for Life assessments were carried out in each of the last three years; and how many resulted in an assessment of *(a)* very good, *(b)* good, *(c)* average and *(d)* poor; [321548]

(2) how much the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment has received for training local planning authority assessors in the Building for Life programme. [321551]

Mr. Ian Austin: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Planning Inspectorate: Judicial Reviews

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many judicial reviews relating to section 288 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 were brought by each local planning authority against the decision of the Planning Inspectorate in each of the last five years; how many of those were *(a)* upheld and *(b)* dismissed in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [325825]

Mr. Ian Austin: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Rented Housing: Overcrowding

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* households and *(b)* people in the (i) private and (ii) social rented sector there were living in overcrowded conditions in (A) London and (B) England in each year since 1997; [323592]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* households and *(b)* people in the (i) private and (ii) social rented sector classified as living in overcrowded conditions there were in each London borough in each year from 1997 to 2009. [324027]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information in respect of overcrowding is available on the Department's website.

The Survey of English Housing samples is too small to provide reliable estimates at local authority level.

Social Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of the social homes provided through the temporary social housing programme in each of the last three years were available for *(a)* up to five years, *(b)* from six to 10 years, *(c)* from 11 to 15 years and *(d)* from 16 years or more. [321564]

Mr. Ian Austin: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1330-1332W, on social rented housing: finance, what the average duration of availability was for social homes provided through the Temporary Social Housing programme in each of the last three years. [321589]

Mr. Ian Austin: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Social Rented Housing: Construction

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social homes have been built since April 2006; and *(a)* how many and *(b)* what proportion met code level (i) 1, (ii) 2, (iii) 3, (iv) 4, (v) 5 and (vi) 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. [319270]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 271-72W, to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps).

Social Rented Housing: Empty Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many social homes were vacant for a period of more than six months in each local authority area in each of the last three years; [320835]

(2) how many social homes were vacant in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [320836]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information is not available on the number of registered social landlord dwellings that were vacant for a period of more than six months in each local authority area.

The other information requested is available on the Department's website.

Social Rented Housing: Waiting Lists

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many households with children were on the social housing waiting list in each of the last three years; and how many children there were in households on that waiting list in each of those years; [323838]

(2) how many households with at least one pregnant member were on the social housing waiting list in each of the last three years; [323839]

(3) what information his Department *(a)* holds and *(b)* collects from local authorities on (i) demographics and (ii) waiting times in respect of households on the social housing waiting list; [323841]

(4) how many households with at least one disabled person were on the social housing waiting list in each of the last three years. [323813]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on waiting times and other characteristics of households on social housing waiting lists are not collected centrally.

The other information requested is available on the Department's website.

Street Cleaning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require local authorities to clean and maintain unadopted alleyways; and if he will make a statement. [325877]

Barbara Follett: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

TREASURY

Answers received for publication 21 January 2010

Banks: USA

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has made to the US authorities on the effect on UK banks in which the Government have a stake operating in the US of the new taxation arrangements in that country; and whether he plans to make such arrangements reciprocal. [311948]

Mr. Timms: On 14 January the US announced the "Financial Crisis Responsibility Fee", which the Government are studying closely. This is a matter for the US authorities and UK banks will be working with them to understand the impact of the proposal as it passes through Congress.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether an assessment has been made of the implications for levels of tax collected of proposals by HM Revenue and Customs to close offices and reduce staff. [311999]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is restructuring its operations across the UK, by consolidating its staff into larger teams in fewer locations to enable more efficient working practices to be introduced.

During this restructuring HMRC has increased the revenues bought in from its compliance activities, from £7.5 billion in 2005-06 to £12 billion in 2008-09.

Revenue and Customs: Peterhead

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the effects of the closure of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) office in Peterhead on the provision of face-to-face advice for clients; how far the nearest HMRC enquiry centre providing face-to-face advice for clients will be from Peterhead following the closure of Keith House, Peterhead; what the estimated disposal costs are of Keith House; what support and guidance HMRC have offered to staff at Keith House over the Workforce Change Programme; whether HMRC plans any compulsory redundancies in respect of staff at Keith House; and how many staff at Keith House will be redeployed by HMRC to other locations. [311975]

Mr. Timms: Provision of face to face advice services currently provided by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) at Keith House, Peterhead will continue either in the existing location or nearby, although no final decision has yet been made as to the actual location. These services are not affected by the decision to withdraw other HMRC work from Peterhead.

HMRC occupies Keith House under contract with its estates provider, Mapeley, and this contract includes a high level of flexibility for HMRC to vacate properties at nil or limited cost during the life of the contract. HMRC intends to maximise the use of the contract's flexibility and until vacation plans for Keith House are finalised, it is not known whether disposal costs will be applicable.

Following the announcement on 4 December 2008 that HMRC would withdraw from Keith House, managers have held one-to-one meetings with staff to discuss their options, taking account of individual personal circumstances. A regional implementation team was set up to explore redeployment options and find suitable opportunities within HMRC and in other Government Departments and agencies. Seminars for all affected staff are being held, and further support is being planned for those staff who want to continue their civil service careers.

Of the eight staff working in Keith House, plans are currently in place for one to be redeployed or continue to provide enquiry centre services. Those staff who cannot be redeployed are eligible to be considered for voluntary redundancy on compulsory terms. HMRC is committed to avoiding compulsory redundancies wherever possible.

Revenue and Customs: Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer at how many locations in Scotland HM Revenue and Customs shares office accommodation with other government agencies. [311970]

Mr. Timms: 24.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any of the HM Revenue and Customs offices in Scotland earmarked for closure were funded through the private finance initiative. [311971]

Mr. Timms: All of the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offices in Scotland identified for closure are held under private finance initiative (PFI) arrangements. The majority are held directly by HMRC under the Strategic Transfer of the Estate to the Private Sector (STEPS) contract with Mapeley, which provides a high level of flexibility for HMRC to vacate properties at nil or limited cost during the life of the contract.

The remaining offices being occupied by HMRC under sharing arrangements with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and subject to DWP's PFI contract with Trillium.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases have been passed from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) call centres to HMRC offices in Scotland which have been earmarked for closure in each of the last five years; what the estimated cost will be of vacating those offices; and what plans HMRC has for the disposal of such buildings at each location. [311972]

Mr. Timms: The information requested around the number of cases passed from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Call Centres to those offices in Scotland is available only at disproportionate cost, due to the work required to extract it from HMRC's systems.

The majority of the HMRC offices in Scotland are held under the terms of the HMRC private finance initiative (PFI) contract with their estates supplier, Mapeley. This contract includes a high level of flexibility for HMRC to vacate properties at nil or limited cost during the life of the contract. HMRC intends to maximise the use of the contract's flexibility and until vacation plans for each office are finalised, it is not known whether disposal costs will be applicable. Formal vacation notices for each office are due to be issued by summer 2010.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the staff *(a)* turnover and *(b)* absentee rate was at each HM Revenue and Customs office in Scotland in each of the last five years. [311973]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is provided in the following tables.

Percentage

Town	*Office name*	*Turnover*				*Absentee*
		2009-10	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Aberdeen	Ruby House	3.2	22.3	14.3	9.4	9.1
Ayr	Russell House	20.2	26.8	13.6	8.5	12.2
Bathgate	Pyramids Business Park	7.7	18.7	20.3	14.2	13.2
Buckie	Moray House	0.0	8.0	8.3	6.7	5.9
Coatbridge	2 Muiryhall Street	0.0	13.6	4.3	3.8	6.3
Cumbernauld	St. Mungos Road	2.5	6.8	10.5	19.2	9.1
Dumbarton	15 Meadowbank Street	0.0	33.3	0.0	6.3	12.5
Dumfries	Government Buildings	48.1	14.3	23.4	10.6	1.8
Dundee	Caledonian House	3.3	11.6	63.8	7.7	9.3
	Sidlaw House	10.0	17.7	0.1	14.4	17.0
Dunfermline	Merchiston House	13.6	23.1	3.2	8.8	5.5
Duncon	Auchencraig	21.1	16.7	0.0	0.0	16.0

Town	Office name	Turnover 2009-10[1]	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	Percentage 2005-06
East Kilbride	Hawbank Stores	0.0	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Plaza Tower	3.4	8.2	11.5	10.7	6.0
	Queensway House	4.3	13.6	14.3	7.4	6.5
Edinburgh	44 York Place	5.7	8.3	7.0	3.7	13.2
	Argyle House	13.8	8.2	20.0	18.2	8.8
	Clarendon House	7.8	3.2	6.6	7.6	6.8
	Elgin House	2.7	4.3	9.4	11.0	6.9
	Erskine House	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Grayfield House	7.3	20.7	16.4	10.6	9.7
	Meldrum House	1.7	2.7	5.1	7.9	8.5
	Saughton House	5.0	5.4	7.3	7.7	5.4
Elgin	Phoenix House Elgin	0.0	80	0.0	0.0	0.0
Falkirk	Grahame House	26.4	45.5	22.2	10.0	10.7
Galashiels	New Reiver House	23.3	17.6	23.5	8.7	0.0
Glasgow	Blythswood House	4.2	7.7	3.9	6.6	7.6
	Cotton House	2.1	2.5	4.9	10.3	7.0
	Portcullis House	7.8	16.4	17.7	6.4	15.0
Glenrothes	Saltire House	3.8	9.2	14.9	5.0	6.1
Grangemouth	Custom House Grangemouth	10.6	0.0	10.5	15.2	11.1
Greenock	99 Dalrymple Street	20.4	4.9	50.0	13.7	11.9
	Custom House	42.1	5.5	8.1	9.0	8.2
Hamilton	1 Barrack Street	6.6	14.0	2.7	7.0	4.2
Hawick	Crown Building Hawick	14.4	12.3	18.2	17.4	7.7
Inverness	Longman House	28.8	21.1	9.5	0.0	27.3
	River House	2.9	11.4	7.0	8.6	3.9
Irvine	Marress House	5.6	16.9	3.1	2.9	7.4
Kirkcaldy	26 Victoria Road	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lerwick	Charlotte House	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Livingston	Almondvale Shopping Centre	19.8	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Barbara Ritchie House	6.8	19.4	21.5	11.0	22.4
	Pentland House	3.5	2.9	5.4	4.6	6.7
Motherwell	43 Civic Square	0.0	16.2	19.2	6.5	0.0
Oban	Mathieson House	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0
Paisley	Falcon Osprey and Vigilant House	0.9	3.6	2.6	3.1	12.0
	Gilmour House	10.9	3.8	0.0	2.3	6.1
	Glasgow Airport	35.2	13.3	0.0	0.0	26.7
Perth	1 to 3 Water Vennel	23.3	13.3	11.5	74.1	16.7
Peterhead	Keith House	17.6	28.6	10.5	3.6	6.6
Rothesay	9 King Street	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.1	0.0
Stirling	8 Spittal Street	19.8	5.6	26.9	6.4	7.8
Ullapool	24 West Argyll Street	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wick	Government Buildings and Custom House	10.8	4.3	4.3	4.1	3.0

[1] 1 April 2009 to 15 January 2010.

Town	Office name	Average working days lost (AWDL) based on 12 months of sick absence data and three months of staff in post data (April, October and March) (see following notes) 2007-08	2008-09	Projected 12 months AWDL using eight months sickness absence and three months staff in post data 2009-10
Aberdeen	Ruby House	4.26	7.23	6.61
Ayr	Russell House	3.71	6.58	2.95
Bathgate	Pyramids Business Park	13.85	9.28	4.46
Buckie	Moray House	5.23	4.46	3.23
Coatbridge	2 Muiryhall Street	7.47	7.19	28.31
Cumbernauld	St. Mungos Road	11.45	12.15	14.32
Dumbarton	15 Meadowbank Street	5.19	8.71	4.47
Dumfries	Government Buildings	5.57	2.53	3.69
Dundee	Caledonian House Dundee	10.39	5.09	8.64
	Sidlaw House	21.94	24.51	19.19
Dunfermline	Menzieston House	12.74	12.85	8.38
Duncon	Auchencraig	5.76	1.52	0.13
East Kilbride	Hawbank Stores	n/a	0.86	0.00
	Plaza Tower	12.35	13.41	12.37
	Queensway House	12.27	10.98	10.58
Edinburgh	44 York Place	6.14	7.08	9.03
	Clarendon House Edinburgh	4.97	7.99	3.27
	Elgin House	7.86	8.62	6.75
	Erskine House	n/a	n/a	0.00
	Grayfield House	11.93	9.16	0.00
	Meldrum House	6.78	7.17	6.88
	Saughton House	9.85	10.43	11.58
Elgin	Phoenix House Elgin	0.60	1.20	0.00
Falkirk	Grahame House	3.69	2.67	15.59
Galashiels	New Reiver House	1.11	4.98	3.69
Glasgow	Blythswood House	15.50	10.06	15.96
	Cotton House	11.26	10.96	9.13
	Portcullis House Glasgow	3.36	14.30	13.42
	Terminal Building Glasgow Airport	0.00	0.00	0.00
Glenrothes	Saltire House	12.79	14.71	8.64
Grangemouth	Custom House Grangemouth	0.42	4.01	2.68
Greenock	91 Dalrymple Street	11.81	5.59	6.63
	Custom House Greenock	0.88	2.30	2.73
Hamilton	1 Barrack Street	15.04	16.89	17.12
Hawick	Crown Building Hawick	13.52	0.40	0.52
Inverness	Longman House	0.70	0.31	1.21
	River House	6.82	8.75	4.42
Irvine	Macrae House	4.80	5.91	3.02
Kirkcaldy	26 Victoria Road	4.11	7.53	12.48
Lerwick	Charlotte House	2.10	9.29	0.00
Livingston	Almondvale Shopping Centre	n/a	7.50	19.29
	Barbara Ritchie House	8.04	16.12	14.65
	Pentland House	16.56	13.00	11.00
Motherwell	43 Civic Square	7.31	6.06	10.22

Town	Office name	Average working days lost (AWDL) based on 12 months of sick absence data and three months of staff in post data (April, October and March) (see following notes) 2007-08	2008-09	Projected 12 months AWDL using eight months sickness absence and three months staff in post data 2009-10[1]
Oban	Mathieson House	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paisley	Falcon Osprey and Vigilant House	5.52	7.46	8.88
	Gilmour House	6.96	14.99	14.77
Perth	1 to 3 Water Vennel	4.19	12.77	4.21
Peterhead	Keith House	2.90	5.22	15.51
Rothesay	9 King Street	1.33	1.50	0.34
Stirling	8 Spittal Street	21.58	16.86	13.76
Ullapool	24 West Argyll Street	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wick	Government Buildings And Customs House	10.41	3.93	2.22

[1] 1 April 2009 to 30 November 2009.

Notes:

1. Average working days lost are calculated as follows:

2007-08—Sick absence for each office, for April 2007 to March 2008.
Divided by 12 month average staff in post (SiP) per office, using April 2007, October 2007 and March 2008 SiP.
Result then multiplied by 12.

2008-09—Sick absence for each office, for April 2008 to March 2009.
Divided by 12 month average staff in post per office, using April 2008, October 2008 and March 2009 SiP.
Result then multiplied by 12.

2009-10—Sick absence for each office for April 2009 to November 2009. (November 2009 is the latest SA data held).
Divided by eight month average staff in post per office, using April, October and November 2009 SiP.
Result then multiplied by 12.

2. SiP data:

This is based on three months staff in post data across each tax year which provides a realistic average per office.

HM Revenue and Customs is unable to provide the same data for 2005-06 and 2006-07 because data for staff on no pay as a result of sickness absence were not linked to office locations.

Answers received for publication 8 April 2010

Aggregates Levy: Wind Power

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the aggregates levy applies to the construction of outside tracking and hard standings in wind farms when using materials excavated from *(a)* a borrow pit and *(b)* the foundations for turbine towers. [325855]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The aggregates levy is a tax on the commercial exploitation of primary aggregates (sand, rock, gravel) in the UK. There is no specific relief for aggregates used in the construction of wind farms.

Bank Services: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will direct UK Financial Investments to request from *(a)* Northern Rock, *(b)* Halifax, *(c)* Bank of Scotland, *(d)* Lloyds Bank and *(e)* Royal Bank of Scotland (i) the number of (A) businesses and (B) retail account holders of each who were resident in York in 2009 and (ii) an estimate of the monetary value of the holdings in each bank by residents of York at 31 December 2009. [325841]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: UK Financial Investments manages the Government's holdings in financial institutions at arm's length and on a commercial basis. In line with its role as a shareholder, UKFI requests only information necessary to achieve its objective as set in its Framework Document and Investment Mandate. The Government believe that these arrangements are vital to ensure that the taxpayer receives value for money from the investments.

Banks: Finance

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to Box C4, page 213 of the Budget 2010, what estimate he has made of the net fiscal cost of the Government's financial sector interventions as at 24 March 2010; and when he expects to publish the detailed calculations. [325869]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Budget 2010 set out that:

"At current market prices the cost of the financial sector interventions net of fees and other income would total £6 billion"

(Financial Statement and Budget Report 2010, p213). Details of the derivation of this figure are given in the text on pages 213 and 214.

Child Care Vouchers

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many parents who use childcare vouchers also claimed the childcare element of working tax credit in the last 12 months. [301762]

Mr. Timms: Robust data are not available, but analysis of survey data suggests that only a small proportion of parents using child care vouchers also claim the child care element of the working tax credit.

Civil Servants: Location

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 12 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 516W, on civil servants: location, what targets were set for *(a)* the Cabinet Office, *(b)* the

Department for Transport, *(c)* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, *(d)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(e)* the UK Statistics Authority in respect of (i) percentage relocation and (ii) 2003 baseline staffing figures; and what the performance of each against these targets has been to date. [323537]

Mr. Byrne: Relocation targets were set for the Lyons Programme as an absolute number of civil service posts, not as percentages of staff based in London and the south-east, or as a percentage figure of the total work force.

The following table records: the 2003 national staffing figure as recorded in the annual report on civil service staffing figures produced by the Cabinet Office; the London and the south-east staffing figure; the numerical target for posts to relocate; and progress towards that target as of 30 June 2009, for *(a)* the Cabinet Office, *(b)* the Department for Transport, *(c)* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, *(d)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(e)* the UK National Statistics (then known as the Office for National Statistics).

	2003 national staff figure	*2003 London/SE staff figure*	*Numerical target for posts to relocate*	*Performance against target as of 30 June 2009*
CO	2,540	2,360	250	67
DFT	14,540	3,510	60	38
FCO	5,890	4,640	450	30
HMRC	97,740	23,830	4,250	3,238
UKNS	3,250	1,520	850	523

The Budget statement on 24 March 2010 reported that by December 2009 over 21,500 civil service posts had been relocated against the target of 24,000. More detail on this progress is available on the OGC website: www.ogc.gov.uk

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has incurred expenditure on *(a)* foreign exchange derivatives and *(b)* consulting on currency hedging strategies in each of the last five years. [325121]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 30 March 2010]*: Under the Credit Guarantee Scheme, HM Treasury uses foreign exchange derivatives to hedge fee income received for debt issued in foreign currencies. HM Treasury does not incur explicit expenditure on these transactions; any fees charged for the use of these derivatives would be reflected in the level of the foreign exchange gain received. HM Treasury reports on the Credit Guarantee Scheme, and its financial impacts, annually in its Resource Accounts.

HM Treasury has not incurred any expenditure on consulting on currency hedging strategies.

Green Investment Bank

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether community-based social enterprises will be eligible for investment from the Green Investment Bank announced in Budget 2010. [325812]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Green Investment Bank (GIB) will specifically address the risk of an emerging gap in the provision of equity capital to large, complex infrastructure projects within the next few years. It is likely the initial focus of the GIB will be on offshore wind generation. However, it will also consider the case for investing in other infrastructure as appropriate as investment needs arise. Infrastructure UK will be consulting on the establishment of the GIB in the summer.

Income Tax: Young People

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many 16 and 17 year-olds resident in Scotland pay income tax; [315045]

(2) how much income tax liability there was in respect of those resident in Scotland under the age of 18 years between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2009. [315046]

Mr. Timms: In 2008-09, the number of 16 and 17-year-olds in Scotland with income tax liabilities is estimated at around 6,000, with total income tax liabilities for those under 18 years estimated at £3.7 million.

The figures are based on the 2006-07 Survey of Personal Incomes and projected in line with 2009 pre-Budget report assumptions. The figures should be treated with caution given the small sample size.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter dated 3 March 2010 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan regarding his constituent Mr. L. Stridgen. [325873]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

National Insurance Contributions

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has made an assessment of the merits of *(a)* reducing National Insurance contributions for businesses taking on a graduate employee and *(b)* providing a National Insurance contribution rebate to businesses with fewer than 50 members of staff in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [323564]

Mr. Timms: All tax and national insurance policy is kept under constant review. Previous experience of schemes with special arrangements for national insurance contributions for specific groups suggests administrative costs could limit take up.

Budget 2010 announced that the Government will extend the £1.3 billion Young Person's Guarantee after March 2011 to ensure young people adversely affected by the recession continue to be offered a Future Jobs Fund job, training or work experience if they cannot find employment within six months.

Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Mole Valley of 5 February 2010, *Official Report*,

columns 643-45W, on non-domestic rates: garages and petrol stations, how many of the hereditaments in each category are in each billing authority area. [319111]

Ian Pearson: It has not proved possible to answer the hon. Member's question before Parliament is prorogued later today.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of a moratorium on payments of retrospective rates on port businesses. [325712]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies have registered for his Department's scheme to enable retrospective business rate charges to be paid over eight years; and how many such companies are *(a)* newly-rated port companies and *(b)* located outside ports. [325713]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Non-domestic Rates: Post Offices

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many post office branches were on the rating list in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010, according to Special Category code information held by the Valuation Office Agency. [315035]

Ian Pearson: It has not proved possible to answer the hon. Member's question before Parliament is prorogued later today.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the remissions and write-offs included in the HM Revenue and Customs Trust Statement *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 including (i) the amounts not collected and (ii) the reasons for the remissions and write-offs. [325747]

Mr. Timms: The information is as follows:

(i) Table 8.2 on page 100 of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) 2008-09 Annual Accounts sets out the amounts of revenue that HMRC remitted and wrote off in 2007-08 and 2008-09. HMRC's Annual Accounts are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0809.pdf

(ii) Tax debts are remitted where they are capable of being recovered but HMRC decides not to pursue a liability. It does this: when the value of a debt is small compared with the likely cost of recovering it; when enforcing payment would cause an individual, or his or her dependents, to suffer financial hardship; or where an earlier error by HMRC would make it inappropriate or unfair for it to enforce payment.

HMRC writes off debts when they have become irrecoverable because there are no practical means for pursuing the debt. This applies where taxpayers have gone missing and HMRC has not been able to trace their current whereabouts or where they have moved overseas to a territory outside the European Union with which the UK has no reciprocal recovery rights.

Debts are also written off where individuals or companies have become insolvent. When this happens, HMRC aims to recover a proportion of what it is owed consistent with its legal rights as a creditor, and it writes off the tax that cannot be recovered in this way. Around 90 per cent. of all HMRC remissions and write offs come from this last category.

Tax Allowances: Housing

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 195W, on tax allowances: housing, if he will estimate the number of *(a)* UK taxpayers and *(b)* hon. Members who varied the nomination of a main residence in order to obtain private residence relief from capital gains tax in each of the last 10 years. [325826]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as the data on main residence nominations are not centrally held on HMRC's systems.

Tax Allowances: Pensioners

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims for higher rate tax relief on pensions were rejected by HM Revenue and Customs in financial year 2009-10 on the basis that the period within which claims were required to be submitted had expired. [325858]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Taxation

Mr. Leech: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the effect on domestic tax revenue rates of relocating offshore *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector jobs. [323940]

Mr. Timms: No such estimate has been made.

Taxation: Domicil

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward in the Budget proposals to end non-domiciliary tax status. [321407]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 9 March 2010]:* The rules governing the way in which non-domiciled individuals are taxed in the UK were reformed in 2008. These reforms struck the right balance between increasing fairness and maintaining the UK's international competitiveness.

Valuation Office Agency: Allowances

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 810W, on Valuation Office: allowances, how many individual expenses were claimed by the Valuation Office Agency's Director of National and Central Services in 2008-09. [324120]

Ian Pearson: During 2008-09 the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) Director of National and Central Services claimed 475 individual expenses.

The expenses claimed and paid directly to the individual for 2008-09 totalled £6,632.

All expenses have been counted individually and not totalled for each day of travel or for each, total, claim submitted on the VOA expenses system. For example if a tube, bus and meal allowance has been claimed on the same day this will be counted as three separate expense claims not one.

This sum excludes costs paid direct by the agency's travel providers for hotel accommodation, rail fares etc.

A further detailed analysis of the hotel expense statistics (as supplied by the travel provider) has revealed errors in the way in which the information from the travel supplier was interpreted. This position has now been clarified but, as a consequence, the figures shown on 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 810W, should show the revisions shown in brackets.

	Expenses claimed	
		£
	1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	*1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009*
Director of National and Central Services	0	34,039 (23,732)

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 810W, on the Valuation Office: allowances, what individual expenses were paid to the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* Chief Executive from April 2007 to March 2009, *(b)* Director of Data Strategy from April 2007 to March 2009 and *(c)* Deputy Chief Executive from April 2007 to March 2009. [324233]

Ian Pearson: The individual expenses paid to the chief executive, deputy chief executive and the director of data strategy of the Valuation Office Agency from April 2007 to March 2009 are shown in the following table:

		£
	2007-08	*2008-09*
Chief executive	235.70	237.60
Deputy chief executive	535.46	376.69
Director of data strategy	945.45	1,309.91

A further detailed analysis of the hotel expense statistics (as supplied by the travel provider) has revealed errors in the way in which the information from the travel supplier was interpreted. This position has now been clarified but., as a consequence, the figures shown o 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 810W, shou show the revisions shown in brackets.

Expenses claimed	*1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008*	*1 April 2008 31 March 20*
Chief executive	4,934 (4,792)	3,194 (3,21
Deputy chief executive	4,283 (3,083)	2,018 (2,84
Director of data strategy	3,757 (2,649)	4,132 (1,95

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Answers received for publication 12 April 2010

Croydon

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State fo Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out wit statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to th Croydon Central constituency, the effects of hi Department's policies on the constituency since 2005 [325820]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 7 April 2010]:* My Department's aim is to improve the quality of life fo everyone through cultural and sporting activities, t support the pursuit of excellence and to champion th tourism, creative and leisure industries.

The impact of bodies and policies of my Department on the Croydon, Central constituency since 2005 include:

£4,955 given from Arts Council England to organisation based in Croydon in 2008-09 through the Grants for the Art programme.

£58,000 of English Heritage grant offers to the Croydon, Central constituency in 2008-09.

Digital switchover is due to take place in Croydon, Central in 2012. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5 per cent. of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

Over £5,117,088 of national lottery grants made to applications from the Croydon, Central constituency since 2005.

The Croydon, Central constituency has also benefited from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency. This includes:

£4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the national lottery since 1997.

Almost 750,000 free swims taken in London in the first eight months of the Free Swimming programme.

A 68 per cent. increase in national museum visits from 1998-99 to 2008-09—10 per cent. of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.

£416.6 million in grants allocated by English Heritage since 1997.

48 per cent. of buildings on the original 1999 Buildings at Risk Register having their future secured.

90 per cent. of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25 per cent. in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

Departmental Electricity Supply

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* voltage optimisers and *(b)* equivalent technologies are used within buildings occupied by his Department. [324979]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has two 830kVA powerPerfector units.

Football: Finance

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has allocated to support youth development and training at non-league football clubs in the last 12 months. [324705]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 30 March 2010]:* In the last financial year Sport England has provided funding of £7,851,278 to the Football Association (FA) to increase participation, rates of retention and strengthen talent pathways for women and girls and disability players.

In addition, approximately £6 million was committed through the Physical Education Sport Strategy for Young People Programme; community club facilities; clubs development, coach development; FA skills and 16-18 retention programmes.

Sport England also allocates £15 million Exchequer funding a year to the Football Foundation. Part of this funding will support the youth development in community football clubs.

Government Art Collection

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many pieces from the Government Art Collection have been reported missing in each year since 1997; and what the monetary value of each such piece was. [323709]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 23 March 2010]:* There are more than 13,500 works of art in the Government Art Collection's (GAC) holdings, on display in over 400 different buildings in the UK and around the world. The GAC carries out audits remotely and in person and some works are occasionally reported as missing from their previously reported locations. The GAC make extensive searches, after which time, many of the items are accounted for.

This table details those Government Art Collection prints and paintings which have been reported as missing since 1997 and not yet recovered:

Year went missing	*Work/artist*	*Value (£)*
1997	Sacred Place 20/50 by M. Ayrton	50
1997	NW Prospect of Gloucester by S. & N. Buck	500
1997	E Prospect of Burton on Trent	500
1997	Sheep at Dusk near New Tredegar by C. Molyneux	25
1998	Charles Abbott 1st Baron Tenterdon by W. Owen	250
1998	Alex Wedderburn 1st Earl Rosslyn by J. Reynolds	50
1999	The Tate Gallery by J. Griffiths	50
2000	Poppies with Sunflowers by M. Thompson	50
2000	How to make 16 Squares out of Forty Rods by M. Porter	50
2000	Jesus College, Cambridge by J. Trevelyan	50
2000	The Deer House, Bishop Auckland, County Durham by J. Thirsk	30
2000	View of Walton Bridge from Outlands by Farington	75

Year went missing	*Work/artist*	*Value (£)*
2000	Fawley Court and Henley by Farington	75
2000	NW Prospect of City of Bristol by S. and N. Buck	500
2000	Jesus College, Cambridge by J. Trevelyan	50
2001	Exhibition Room, Somerset House by Rowlandson	100
2001	The Mosque of Sultan Achmet by anonymous	100
2001	Syon House by A. Bury	50
2001	On London Bridge by Edwin La Dell	50
2001	Offering to Jupiter by M. Rocca	80,000
2001	Lake Landscape by G. Arnald	35,000
2001	Landscape by E. Williams	60,000
2001	St. James's Park and Banqueting House by A. Highmore	60,000
2001	Sir Woodbine's Parish by T. Phillips	5,000
2001	The Cathedral of St. Magnus, Kirkwall, Orkney by W. Daniell	20
2002	Boys and Girls in Boats, Windsor by L. Rosoman	30
2002	Walter Runciman, 1st Viscount Runciman by W. Strang	100
2002	Regent Street looking towards the Quadrant by T. S. Boys	100
2002	Westminster Abbey, West Front by T. H. Shepherd	30
2002	Richmond Castle, Evening by D. Muirhead	30
2002	St. Paul's 15/75 by J. Trevelyan	100
2002	Shadwell Park 4/75 by J. Piper	300
2003	The Rose Garden, British Embassy, Washington by E. Croner	100
2003	The New Law Courts, Main portion of Strand Facade by G. E. Street	50
2003	The New Law Courts, Portion of the West Front by G. E. Street	50
2003	Stepping Stones by T. Gilman	2,200
2003	Paradox No. IV 15/25 by D. Hirst	25
2004	Blackfriars from Southwark Bridge by T. Shotters Boys	100
2005	Gondola III 39/100 by M. Krosh-Frishman	50
2005	3ra Day of Creation A/P by E. Sharf	50
2005	Hall of Christ Church Hospital by T. Rowlandson and A. C. Pugin	75
2006	Penman-Mauer taken from near Aber, North Wales by W. Daniell	20
2007	The New Foreign and India Offices: The Park Front by M. Jackson	50
2007	The Grand Staircase at the New Foreign Office by anonymous	50
2007	Boats A/P by R. Jarvis	100
2007	Horse Guards from the Old Entrance, Scotland Yard by M. A. Rooker	500
2008	Monument to Balance 4,30 by Ernest A. Dunn	100
2008	The Wording of Police Charges 37/150 by R. B. Kitaj	500
2008	Plague 37/150 by R. B. Kitaj	500
2009	The Cathedral Church of St. Peter in Chichester by L. Knyff	250
2009	Bambridge on Trial for Murder by Committee of House of Commons by W. Hogarth	200
2009	The Railway Station by W. P. Frith	600
2009	Derby Day by W. P. Frith	600
2009	Leaving by D. Evans	500
2009	House Plant 2/25 by Boyd and Evans	500
2009	Evening Menu 31/70 by P. Caulfield	1,600
2009	Untitled by P. Collingwood	3,000

This table details Government Art Collection prints and paintings which were reported missing but subsequently recovered:

Year went missing	Work/artist	Value £
2001	Dung Gate, Jerusalem by H. G. Gray	1,000
2001	Jaffa Gate, Jerusalem by H. G. Gray	1,000
2001	Zion Gate, Jerusalem by H. G. Gray	1,000
2001	St. Stephen's Gate, Jerusalem by H. G. Gray	1,000
2001	Damascus Gate, Jerusalem by H. G. Gray	1,000
2001	Herod's Gate, Jerusalem by H. G. Gray	1,000
2001	Golden Gate, Jerusalem by H. G. Gray	1,000
2001	The Citadel, Jerusalem by H. G. Gray	1,000
2003	The Mansion House looking towards Cheapside by T. Malton	50
2003	Henry Brougham, 1st Baron Brougham and Vaux (1778-1868) Lord Chancellor by R. Bowyer	50
2003	A Perspective View of Lincoln's Inn by J. Maurer	75
2004	Forced Labour 34/250 by A. Hrdlicka	500
2004	Cartmel Fell, Windermere 45/100 by N. Ackroyd	500
2004	Les Premiers Astres 21/50 by J. Dickson	50
2005	Calcutta by H. Salt	1,000
2005	Lower Wessex Lane, Summer 9/10 by Stevens	50
2005	Lower Wessex Lane, Spring 28/75 by Stevens	50
2005	Stand On The Green by R. Burn	50
2005	Key Print to Field Marshal, the Duke of Wellington giving orders to his Generals previous to a General Action	50
2006	Abstract by S. Kaner	100
2007	Rival 29/100 by Procktor	400
2007	Sir William Chambers by F. Cotes	75,000
2007	Shipping by J. T. Serres	7,000
2008	Yellow Square Plus Quarter Blue 30/72 by W. Scott	3,000
2008	Mudbanks by J. Trevelyan	500
2008	Calypso 36/50 by J. Trevelyan	500
2008	Breeze I 40/50 by J. Brunsdon	50

Leisure: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has provided for *(a)* public libraries, *(b)* museums, *(c)* galleries, *(d)* arts development and support, *(e)* open spaces, *(f)* sport and leisure facilities, *(g)* school sport and *(h)* other cultural services in Birmingham in each year since 1997. [325168]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on funding levels in Birmingham for *(a)* public libraries, *(b)* museums, *(c)* galleries, *(e)* open spaces, *(f)* sport and leisure facilities, and *(h)* other cultural services is not held centrally.

I am able to provide details of funding in Birmingham for:

(d) Arts development and support

The following table details funding provided under the Grants for the Arts programme in the Birmingham local authority area since the programme was introduced in 2003:

Amount of grants for the arts funding provided to organisations based in the Birmingham local authority area

	£
2003-04	2,306,449
2004-05	3,464,364
2005-06	3,313,558
2006-07	4,627,704
2007-08	2,457,633
2008-09	2,238,845
Total	18,408,553

and

(g) School sport

Every community in England will benefit from investment into delivery of the five hour offer, which is targeted through our national network of 450 school sport partnerships and 49 county sport partnerships. Exchequer funding for school sport partnerships in Birmingham began in 2004 and is continuing through the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People, (PESSYP), jointly funded by my Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Funding provided for school sport partnerships in Birmingham in each year since 2004 is shown in the following table:

Funding for school sports partnerships in Birmingham

	£
2004	1,829,386
2005	2,306,047
2006	2,627,371
2007	2,364,633
2008	2,847,453
2009	2,914,155
Total	14,889,045

Funding provided for sports colleges in Birmingham in each year since the first sports college was established is shown in the following table:

Funding for sports colleges in Birmingham

	£
2000-01	471,580
2001-02	766,522
2002-03	734,788
2003-04	796,354
2004-05	1,147,896
2005-06	1,231,120
2006-07	1,291,855
2007-08	1,476,157
2008-09	1,430,315
2009-10	1,462,089
Total	10,808,676

Birmingham county sport partnership has received PESSYP funding via the Sport Unlimited, Leadership and Volunteering and Recruit into Coaching programmes. The key investments are outlined in the following table:

Programme	Year	Funding (£)
Sport Unlimited	2008-09	214,450
	2009-10	271,938
	2010-11	333,296
	Total	819,684
Leadership and Volunteering	2008-09	22,000
	2009-10	22,000
	2010-11	22,000
	Total	66,000

Programme	Year	Funding (£)
Recruit into Coaching	2009-10	8,786
	2010-11	12,500
	Total	20,286

Museums and Galleries: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) whether he has made an estimate of the *(a)* total financial contribution made by foreign national visitors to national museums and galleries in each year since 1997 and *(b)* proportion of the turnover of those museums attributable to such contributions in each of those years; and if he will make a statement; [323664]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of foreign nationals who have visited national museums and galleries in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [323665]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of overseas visits reported by 17 of the national museums and galleries since 1998 are in the table. This is an agreed museum performance indicator.

Overseas visitors

Financial year	Number
1998-99	6,053,600
1999-2000	6,044,299
2000-01	9,348,789
2001-02	9,139,763
2002-03	9,589,987
2003-04	11,805,327
2004-05	10,882,420
2005-06	10,912,808
2006-07	14,256,408
2007-08	15,179,212
2008-09	13,907,317

The Department does not hold the data for 1997.

The financial contributions and proportion of turnover to national museums and galleries by overseas visitors is not collected centrally.

National Lottery

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to refuse consent to Camelot to offer a facility to make cash payments for utilities and other services through National Lottery terminals. [325863]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Royal Parks Agency: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 997W, Royal Parks Agency: finance, what revenue has been raised by the Royal Parks Agency in each Royal Park from *(a)* car park charges, *(b)* fixed penalty notices, *(c)* other fines and *(d)* other revenues in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [323897]

Margaret Hodge: Revenue raised from parking charges, excess charge notices and other revenue during the 2008-09 financial year has been provided by The Royal Parks (TRP) in the following table:

£000

Royal Park	Car parking	Excess charge notices[1]	Other revenue[2]
Hyde Park	346	41	3,290
St. James's Park[3]	n/a	n/a	1,251
Kensington Gardens[3]	n/a	n/a	256
The Regent's Park	815	70	1,564
Greenwich Park	240	34	293
Richmond Park	n/a	n/a	1,045
Bushy Park	n/a	n/a	188
Total	1,401	145	7,887

[1] The excess charge figure is also included in the car parking figure
[2] These figures exclude grants from agency-wide projects, which are managed centrally.
[3] Parking charges are not applicable at these parks because there is no public parking.

There is no charge at present for parking in Richmond or Bushy Parks. TRP does not receive revenue from fixed penalty notices or other fines, but receives revenue from catering and other concessions, from fees for events, permits and licences and from rents. The excess charge notices figure is included in the figures for car parking.

Television: Scotland

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consultation was undertaken by his Department on the transfer of the Scottish Borders television region to the Scotland pilot scheme; when the transfer will take place; what *(a)* technical and *(b)* regulatory process will be required to effect the transfer; and if he will make a statement. [325457]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the announcement of the procurement process for the independently funded news consortia (IFNC) pilots the Government said they wanted to look at the option for a news service for the whole of Scotland subject to costs and technical feasibility.

The IFNC proposition is about an enhanced local news service that is relevant for audiences. The option of transferring the Scottish borders regional news service remains under review. No decisions have yet been made about whether or not a transfer will take place or the timing. If a decision is taken to transfer the news provision, then any necessary technical and regulatory processes will be addressed.

Tourism: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to promote tourism in South East Essex; and if he will make a statement. [324390]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested regarding the promotion of tourism in South East Essex is not held centrally. Responsibility for tourism in the regions was taken over by the regional development agencies (RDAs) in 2003.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of the East of England Development Agency to write to the hon. Member directly. Copies of the response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

In 2009-10, DCMS contributed £3.4 million to the RDA single budget, in respect of tourism support in the regions. This money is not actually ring-fenced for tourism, but is intended to support the broader tourism promotion investment of the RDAs, which totalled £60 million in 2009-10.

The overall level of public sector investment in tourism from local, regional and national sources is likely to significantly exceed £2 billion in the current spending review period—2008-09 to 2010-11 (including resources made available for skills development).

In partnership with the industry and the wider public sector, the DCMS has a clear and coherent policy framework for industry growth. This includes branding and marketing; skills development; driving up product quality through accommodation grading schemes; and promoting sustainability and accessibility.

In addition a number of other DCMS programmes contribute to tourism. DCMS sponsors "Sea Change", which has allocated £38 million to 32 seaside resorts, to support projects for cultural regeneration and the visitor economy. The "Renaissance in the Regions" programme is a ground-breaking initiative to transform England's regional museums. Renaissance has seen an investment of £242.8 million from 2002-09 and it is anticipated that nearly £300 million will have been invested by March 2011.

Letter from Deborah Cadman, dated 8 April 2010:

As requested by the DCMS, I write in response your Parliamentary Question about support for tourism in South East Essex.

Support for tourism promotion in South East Essex is provided in close working partnership by Southend Borough Council, Essex County Council, and East of England Tourism (EET), which is funded by EEDA.

Essex County Council support includes:

featuring tourism businesses in guides, on their website, and in their tourism market campaigns

with EET, keeping local authorities informed about tourism issues and advising them on specific opportunities, for example hotel development

taking advantage of the Olympics to promote South East Essex, which will host the mountain biking in 2012 at Hadleigh Castle

representing South East Essex in its public relations work, including at trade shows

Southend Council support includes:

investing an additional £100,000 last year in its events programme, which aims to help extend the tourism season and promote Southend as a short-break destination as well as a day visitor destination

redeveloping its website last year and developing a new brand for Southend to help challenge perceptions and open up new markets

East of England Tourism (EET) provides regional and national level marketing for South East Essex through its marketing campaigns, successful website, and other services for tourism businesses.

For example, last year Southend featured in the following EET initiatives:

The Lets Go! promotion with National Express

a marketing campaign with C2C

Stansted guides and special offers

a double-page spread in The Independent

an Evening Standard press campaign

In addition, EEDA itself has directly invested in new cultural facilities in South East Essex, including Metal in Southend, and the Royal Opera House Production Park in Thurrock. We are also leading the region's effort to take advantage of the Olympics opportunity, which we estimate could deliver a £450 million return for tourism for the region as a whole, with South East Essex especially well-placed to benefit.

Should you wish to know more about our work supporting tourism in South East Essex please do no hesitate to contact us.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 23 March 2010

TRANSPORT

Driving Instruction

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many driving instructors qualified in each of the last three years. [318035]

[Official Report, 22 February 2010, Vol. 506, c. 182W.]

Letter of correction from Paul Clark:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) on 22 February 2010. The full answer given was as follows:

Paul Clark: The number of newly qualified approved driving instructors entering the Register of Approved Driving Instructors, in each of the last three years, is shown in the following table.

	Number qualified
2007	4,485
2008	4,749
2009	4,485

The correct answer should have been:

Paul Clark: The number of newly qualified approved driving instructors entering the Register of Approved Driving Instructors, in each of the last three years, is shown in the following table.

	Number qualified
2007	5,734
2008	4,749
2009	4,485

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average age of driving instructors is. [318036]

[Official Report, 22 February 2010, Vol. 506, c. 182W.]

Letter of correction from Paul Clark:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) on 22 February 2010. The full answer given was as follows:

Paul Clark: The average age of the 48,885 Approved Driving Instructors currently registered is 47 years and six months.

The correct answer should have been:

Paul Clark: The average age of the 45,885 Approved Driving Instructors currently registered is 47 years and six months.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 25 March 2010

DEFENCE

Departmental Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 1997. [297929]

[Official Report, 9 November 2009, Vol. 499, c. 45W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Kevan Jones:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 9 November 2009.

The full answer given was as follows:

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 1997. [297929]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Total amounts of all types of bonus paid to MOD civilian personnel in each financial year since 2003-04 are provided in the following table:

	Bonus total (£)
2003-04	24,866,213
2004-05	34,106,162
2005-06	43,317,178
2006-07	39,147,749
2007-08	46,103,238
2008-09	52,984,656
2009-10	47,283,853

Figure for 2009-10 is a partial year figure covering the period 1 April 2009 to 31 October 2009.

We are unable to provide details of bonus payments paid during the period April 1997 to March 2003 as the data is no longer available electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The correct answer should have been:

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 1997. [297929]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Total amounts of all types of bonus paid to MOD civilian personnel in each financial year since 2003-04 are provided in the following table:

	Total non-consolidated awards (to nearest £100,000)
2003-04	24,900,000
2004-05	34,000,000
2005-06	43,100,000
2006-07	41,200,000
2007-08	46,600,000
2008-09	48,300,000
2009-10	47,600,000

The figure for 2009-10 is a partial year figure covering the period 1 April 2009 to 31 October 2009.

We are unable to provide details of bonus payments paid during the period April 1997 to March 2003 as the data are no longer available electronically and could be provided at only disproportionate cost.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 29 March 2010

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for her Department's websites in each of the last three years; and what budget has been allocated for such activities in 2009-10. [309904]

[Official Report, 8 March 2010, Vol. 507, c. 71-72W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Jim Knight:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 8 March 2010. The original reply did not reflect the correct position in relation to the management of the following websites: The Pensions Advisory Service, The Pensions Ombudsman, The Pension Protection Fund, The Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman, The Pensions Regulator, Now Let's Talk Money, Independent Living Funds, Personal Accounts Delivery Authority, NDDP Job Broker Search, Working for Health, Remploy, Health and Safety Executive and Directgov. While these bodies are all sponsored by DWP, their websites are currently managed independently.

The correct answer should have been:

Jim Knight: Websites managed by the Department include:

DWP Corporate
Jobcentre Plus
The Pension Service (this site closed September 2009)
Child Support Agency
CM Options
CMEC
Office for Disability Issues
European Social Fund
Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council
Social Security Advisory Committee
Independent Case Examiner

Ongoing creation, development and maintenance of websites managed by the Department is mainly carried out by the Department's own in-house digital media team and in-house maintenance team. It is not possible for us to extract and quantify previous or forecast costs for all the categories requested, in particular strategy and content provision, because in most cases staff working across these areas are engaged in more than one role and/or website. Similarly, our hosting and infrastructure costs form part of a wider departmental IT contract.

We can provide figures for the redevelopment of the DWP website and the Office for Disability Issues website as we ran separate projects with separate budgets within the last three years. The costs quoted are for design and build work only and are not an annual cost.

	Website	*Cost (£000)*
2008-09	DWP Corporate	216
2007-08	Office for Disability Issues	147

There are no plans to spend money on design and build in 2009-10 for these two websites.

Figures available for testing and evaluation are:

		Cost (£000)
Website		
2008-09	The Pension Service	21
2008-09	Jobcentre Plus	20
Planned spend		
2009-10	The Pension Service	19
2009-10	Jobcentre Plus	13
2009-10	DWP Corporate	3
2009-10	Office for Disability Issues	6

We are working with Cabinet Office to implement a standardised method for quantifying website costs across Government in line with Central Office of Information guidelines. This is in response to a Public Accounts Committee recommendation. These costs will be available from April 2010 onwards as per the timetable.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 30 March 2010

JUSTICE

Prisoners Release

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the size of the prison population in each month up to the end of 2015 following ending of the End of Custody Licence Scheme. [320059]

[Official Report, 8 March 2010, Vol. 507, c. 94-96W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Jack Straw:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. and learned Member for Beaconsfield (Mr. Grieve) on 8 March 2010. The error occurred in the figures given for the period December 2012 to June 2015 relating to the "high" projection.

The correct answer should have been;

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice produces annual projections of the prison population in England and Wales, most recently in August 2009. These project the prison population under three different scenarios, based on different assumptions about future sentencing trends.

Other impacts included in the projections, such as those of legislation and processes, are applied equally to all scenarios. These cover the anticipated impacts of policy and process initiatives that have agreed implementation timetables. These assumptions and anticipated impacts have remained unchanged since 2008 projections.

End of Custody Licence (ECL) was introduced on 29 June 2007. Under this scheme a prisoner who was given a determinate custodial sentence between four weeks and four years can be released on licence up to 18 days before the end of their sentence.

Because there was no agreed timetable for its conclusion, its effect was included throughout the projection period. In the second half of 2009, the caseload of prisoners on ECL has been between 1,000 and 1,200:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

The scheme ends on 12 March this year as it was recently announced. As result of this, it is expected that by the end of March 2010, the prison population will be 1,000 to 1,200 higher than was anticipated in the current published prison population projections.

This effect will carry on from March 2010 estimates onwards. Here are last year's projections plus 1,200:

	High	*Medium*	*Number Low*
2010			
March	86,000	85,400	84,700
April	86,200	85,600	84,800
May	86,200	85,500	84,600
June	86,900	86,100	85,100
July	87,000	86,900	85,900
August	87,600	86,700	85,600
September	87,900	86,900	85,600
October	88,000	86,900	85,600
November	88,500	87,300	86,000
December	86,800	85,600	84,100
2011			
January	87,700	86,400	84,800
February	88,000	86,600	84,900
March	89,000	87,600	85,800
April	88,900	87,300	85,500
May	89,200	87,500	85,600
June	89,800	88,100	86,100
July	90,400	88,600	86,500
August	90,400	88,500	86,400
September	90,500	88,600	86,400
October	90,600	88,600	86,400
November	90,800	88,700	86,400
December	88,600	86,400	84,000
2012			
January	89,700	87,500	85,000
February	90,600	88,300	85,800
March	90,800	88,500	85,900
April	90,900	88,500	85,800
May	91,200	88,700	85,900
June	91,400	88,900	86,100
July	91,900	89,200	86,300
August	91,800	89,100	86,100
September	91,900	89,100	86,000
October	91,900	89,100	86,000
November	92,000	89,000	85,900
December	89,700	86,700	83,400
2013			
January	90,700	87,700	84,300
February	91,600	88,500	85,100
March	91,800	88,600	85,100
April	91,800	88,500	85,000
May	92,100	88,700	85,100
June	92,300	88,800	85,200
July	92,700	89,200	85,400
August	92,600	89,000	85,200
September	92,700	89,000	85,100
October	92,700	89,000	85,000
November	92,800	89,000	85,000
December	90,600	86,700	82,600
2014			
January	91,700	87,700	83,500
February	92,600	88,600	84,300
March	92,900	88,800	84,500
April	93,000	88,800	84,400
May	93,200	89,000	84,500
June	93,600	89,200	84,700
July	94,000	89,600	85,000
August	94,000	89,500	84,800
September	94,100	89,600	84,800
October	94,200	89,600	84,800
November	94,400	89,700	84,800

	High	Medium	Number Low
December	92,100	87,400	82,400
2015			
January	93,200	88,400	83,400
February	94,200	89,300	84,200
March	94,500	89,500	84,300
April	94,600	89,500	84,300
May	94,800	89,700	84,400
June	95,100	89,900	84,500

Note: These figures will be revised in this year (2010) publication.

These figures will be revised in this year's (2010) publication.

More details on the projections may be found in the latest published bulletin, "Prison Population Projections 2009-2015" Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin, 28 August 2009. This is available at the following webpage:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonpopulation.htm

also available the statement made by the Secretary of State for Justice on the subject of the release of prisoners under the early release scheme at:

House of Commons Hansard Debates for 22 Feb 2010 Vol. 506 c.27

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Databases

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of installing the Human Resources Information System (Oracle) in his Department has been to date. [320812]

[Official Report, 9 March 2010, Vol. 507, c. 174W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Belfast, South (Dr. McDonnell) on 9 March 2010. The full answer given was as follows:

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since October 2008, the cost of installing the Oracle Human Resources Information System in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has been £544,563.26.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since October 2008, the cost of installing the Oracle Human Resources Information System in the Department for Culture Media and Sport has been £558,650.45.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on external consultants in respect of the Human Resources Information System (Oracle) to date. [320813]

[Official Report, 9 March 2010, Vol. 507, c. 174W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Belfast, South (Dr. McDonnell) on 9 March 2010. The full answer given was as follows:

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since October 2008, my Department has spent £294,849.19 on external consultants in respect of the Human Resources Information Systems (Oracle).

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since October 2008, my Department has spent £308,936.38 on external consultants in respect of the Human Resources Information Systems (Oracle).

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 7 April 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Travelling People: Grants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Gypsy and Traveller site grants were made in each of the last three years: and what the average amount of such a grant was in each of those years. [300998]

[Official Report, 30 November 2009, Vol. 501, c. 525W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Shahid Malik:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 30 November 2009. The figures in the second paragraph were incorrect. The answer given was as follows.

Barbara Follett: Grant for refurbishing existing and building new Gypsy and Traveller sites since 2006-07 has been paid through the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant.

In rounds one and two of year 2006-07 56 grants were paid at a total cost of £14,265,752 making the average grant £254,745. For rounds one and two of year 2007-08 74 grants were paid at a total cost of £13,436,131 making an average of £181,569 per grant and in 2008-09 56 grants were paid at a total cost of £11,965,079 with the average grant being £213,662.

The correct answer should have been:

"Grant for refurbishing existing and building new Gypsy and Traveller sites since 2006-07 has been paid through the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant.

In rounds one and two of year 2006-07 100 grants were paid at a total cost of £20,439,796 making the average grant £204,397.96 For rounds one and two of year 2007-08 95 grants were paid at a total cost of £32,295,321 making an average of £339,950.75 per grant and in 2008-09 44 grants were paid at a total cost of £21,561,277 with the average grant being £490,029.02".

FIRST DELEGATED LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (Consequential Amendments) (England and Wales) Order 2009

The following is an extract from the affirmative resolution date:

The hon. Gentleman focused mainly on costs. I understand his point about ensuring that there are short-term costs in the region of £37 million to make the transition from the Learning and Skills Council to the Skills Funding Agency and the Young People's Learning Agency. He cited a debate in another place, involving my noble Friend Baroness Morgan, but he failed to mention the full quote from my noble Friend, so let me put it on the record:

"I reiterate that, over time, those changes are expected to generate net annual savings of £77 million from rationalisation of premises, IT, shared services and streamlined contracting and data collection processes. The new system is expected to be revenue-neutral for providers, with prudential savings through reduced bureaucracy."—[*Official Report, House of Lords*, 15 March 2010; Vol. 718, c. GC216.]

[Official Report, 22 March 2010, Vol. 508, First Delegated Legislation Committee c. 9.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Iain Wright:

At the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (Consequential Amendments) (England and Wales) Order 2009 affirmative resolution debate, which took place on 22 March 2010, I quoted a figure of £77 million *Official Report, House of Commons*, 22 March 2010, column 9, when it ought to have been £17 million. This error occurred because the Minister quoted *Official Report, House of Lords*, 15 March 2010; Vol. 718, c. GC216. The Official Report, House of Lords has subsequently acknowledged their error in recording this amount and issued a correction notice *Official Report, House of Lords*, 22 March 2010, column 836.

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 8 April 2010

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Travel

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on travel in each year since 1997. [273678]

[Official Report, 23 June 2009, Vol. 494, c. 788W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Chris Bryant:

Errors have been identified in the table in my written answer to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski) on 23 June 2009.

The correct answer should have been:

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has spent the following amounts on overseas and UK travel in each of the last five financial years. Until 2006-07 FCO Services travel was accounted for under the FCO. From 2007-08 FCO Services costs are accounted for separately and therefore are not included in the table.

Financial year	*Overseas*	*£ UK*
2004-05	39,864,709	1,518,089
2005-06	46,453,117	1,987,552
2006-07	50,274,236	2,380,926
2007-08	46,931,294	1,159,086
2008-09	52,978,790	1,779,031

The year on year increases in travel costs are largely due to increases in fuel costs over the period affecting ticket prices.

Obtaining information on costs of travel before this period would incur disproportionate cost.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bonn Declaration

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated under each budget heading for the purposes of meeting its obligations under the Bonn Declaration in each year from 2001 to 2008. [306700]

[Official Report, 14 December 2009, Vol. 502, c. 804-805W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Gareth Thomas:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for North Southwark and Bermondsey (Simon Hughes) on 14 December 2009. The answer given was as follows:

Mr. Thomas: The 2001 Bonn Declaration committed signatories to providing $410 million per year, from 2005-08, for developing countries to respond to climate change. The European Community was one of these signatories and the UK Government agreed to contribute approximately £30 million ($61,467 million) per year. The following table provides the amount spent through each budget heading, which has exceed that original commitment.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*£ million 2007-08*
Special Climate Change Fund	3.3	3.3	3.8
Clean Energy Investment Framework	0.43	1.3	0.36
Global Environment Facility (climate focal area)	10.4	10.4	11.66
Bilateral (including research)	9.27	18.35	26.18
Least Developed Countries Fund	—	—	3.5
Other Government Department spending	6.63	7.4	7.4
Total	30.03	40.75	52.9

The Department for International Development (DFID) contributed through the Special Climate Change Fund, the Clean Energy Investment Framework, the Global Environment Facility, the Least Developed Countries Fund and through Bilateral aid.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Thomas: The 2001 Bonn Declaration committed signatories to providing $410 million per year, from 2005-08, for developing countries to respond to climate change. The European Community was one of these signatories and the UK Government agreed to contribute approximately £30 million ($61,467 million) per year. The following table provides the amount spent through each budget heading, which has exceed that original commitment.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*£ million 2007-08*
Special Climate Change Fund	3.3	3.3	3.3
Clean Energy Investment Framework	0.43	1.3	0.36
Global Environment Facility (climate focal area)	10.4	10.4	11.66
Bilateral (including research)	9.27	18.35	26.18
Least Developed Countries Fund	—	—	7
Other Government Department spending	6.63	7.4	7.4
Total	30.03	40.75	55.9

The Department for International Development (DFID) contributed through the Special Climate Change Fund, the Clean Energy Investment Framework, the Global Environment Facility, the Least Developed Countries Fund and through Bilateral aid.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Higher Education: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2010, *Official Report*, 848-9W, on higher education: Chelmsford, how many applicants from *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area did not get a place at university in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [314497]

[Official Report, 3 February 2010, Vol. 505, c. 333-334W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. David Lammy:

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns) on 3 February 2010. Due to an administrative error, some of the figures in the answer were incorrect. The incorrect figures were in the rows labelled "applicants" and "obtained a place".

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 1 February 2010]:* The information is in the following table.

Applicants to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS from West Chelmsford constituency and Chelmsford local authority area 2005-06 to 2007-08

	Year of entry		
	2005	*2006*	*2007*
West Chelmsford constituency			
Applicants	753	786	834
Of which:			
Obtained a place	632	657	684
Unplaced	121	129	150
Chelmsford local authority			
Applicants	1,190	1,195	1,287
Of which:			
Obtained a place	1,008	988	1,057
Unplaced	182	207	230

Source:
UCAS

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which of the jobs advertised on the *(a)* internal and *(b)* public versions of the Civil Service jobs website had salaries of £150,000 or over in the last six months. [318128]

[Official Report, 25 February 2010, Vol. 506, c. 697-98W.]

Letter of correction from Angela E. Smith:

Errors have been identified in the response given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 25 February 2010. The figure 43 should be replaced with 40 and the figure 32 should be replaced with 29.

The answer given was as follows:

Angela E. Smith: Not all vacancies advertised on the civil service jobs site show salary details. Of those that were advertised in the last six months showing salary details, 43 roles fell within the £81,600 to £220,000 salary range. The total figure of 43 was made up of 11 jobs advertised on the public part of the civil service jobs site and 32 on the internal part of the site.

The correct answer should have been:

Angela E. Smith: Not all vacancies advertised on the civil service jobs site show salary details. Of those that were advertised in the last six months showing salary details, 40 roles fell within the £81,600 to £220,000 salary range. The total figure of 40 was made up of 11 jobs advertised on the public part of the civil service jobs site and 29 on the internal part of the site.

HEALTH

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units of Swine influenza vaccine are available to be dispensed to UK patients. [319958]

[Official Report, 4 March 2010, Vol. 506, c. 1403-04W.]

Letter of correction from Gillian Merron:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Brecon and Radnorshire (Mr. Williams) on 4 March 2010. I am sorry that two of the figures cited were incorrect. The amount of vaccine calculated as held centrally did not take account of vaccine that had been delivered to the devolved Administrations, as only vaccine delivered to the NHS in England was subtracted from the total.

The answer given was as follows:

Gillian Merron: As of Friday 26 February 2010, the amount of swine influenza vaccine available to be dispensed was 25.3 million doses, held centrally, plus the stock currently held in the National Health Service across the United Kingdom.

This is based on the total amount of swine influenza vaccine delivered to the United Kingdom from Baxter and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) at approximately 38.5 million doses, less the total number of doses sent out to the National Health Service (NHS) England, up to 24 February, which was approximately 13.2 million.

The correct answer should have been:

Gillian Merron: As of Friday 26 February 2010, the amount of swine influenza vaccine available to be dispensed was 21.35 million doses, held centrally, plus the stock currently held in the national health service across the United Kingdom.

This is based on the total amount of swine influenza vaccine delivered to the United Kingdom from Baxter and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) at approximately 38.5 million doses, less the total number of doses sent out to the national health service (NHS) UK, up to 24 February, which was approximately 17.15 million.